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JOHN BULL

Vol. XII. No. 296. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1912. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page II. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

YOUR

WIFE

SISTER

DAUGHTER

OR

FIANCEE

In fact all your Lady Friends

MUST
See
Page
163

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The following claim has been received for our issue of December [illegible]

H. DREWRY, 8, Perth Terrace, Lombard Street, Lenton, Nott[illegible] 223,141. December 23rd, 1911.

The following are the fifty numbers for the issue of January 6th [illegible]

3792	163966	360805	506877	715745
40264	191019	379246	548311	727356
53791	214439	388942	556983	744787
60048	224106	394838	562011	761081
72621	238858	411120	581810	770874
82783	255692	449062	648311	810485
94461	270721	455649	655144	819674
107012	304019	465214	650082	830977
153028	342533	480146	672136	847902
159972	355376	490021	701842	862457

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE ISSUE DATED MARCH 2ND (PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 29TH).

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

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Vol. XII. No. 296. Week ending Saturday, February 3rd, 1912. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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The John Bull League.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH.
A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD IN THE
WHITE HORSE HOTEL, CONGREVE STREET,
TO-MORROW (FRIDAY), FEBRUARY 2nd, at 8 p.m.
20 STAR ARTISTES.
ADMISSION FREE.
LADIES SPECIALLY INVITED.

A WHIST DRIVE
WILL BE HELD AT
THE PITMAN RESTAURANT, CORPORATION STREET,
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th.
COMMENCE 7.30 P.M. ADMISSION 1/-

ABERDEEN BRANCH.
A WHIST DRIVE
WILL BE HELD IN
THE EMPRESS CAFE, UNION STREET,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th.
Partners drawn 7.45 p.m. sharp.
WHIST. MUSIC.
Tickets (price 1s. 6d., Gents.; 1s. 3d. Ladies, including refreshments) may be obtained from Mr A. T. Fairweather, 58, Elmbank Terrace; Mr. Joseph Ross, 69, Albury Road; Mr. F. H. Lawrence, stationer, 41, Victoria Road; and members of the committee.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.
A CINDERELLA DANCE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HARDMAN STREET,
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th.
DANCING FROM 8 P.M. TILL MIDNIGHT.
TICKETS (PRICE 1s.)
may be obtained from the Branch Secretary, Mr. G. S. Haines, 48, Woodlands Road, Aigburth, or any member of the Committee.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

UNFOUNDED.

Of course, our exclusive announcement of forthcoming Cabinet changes is "entirely without foundation"—just as our exclusive statement about the health of Mr. Chamberlain was. We [illegible] after Mr. Lloyd George's return to gown Mr. Ra[illegible] Macdonald called at Downing Street [illegible] young man, and is sure to [illegible]

TAKE YOUR CHOICE.

Daily News, January 17th.

"Mr. Labouchere could have got into the Cabinet easily enough had he willed. Office is for some men the field in which their talents are most happy: for many more it is at once the grave of independence."

Daily News, January 17th.

"Mr. Labouchere wanted to follow his uncle, Lord Taunton, as a Cabinet Minister. He always alleged in subsequent years that Mr. Gladstone had given him a pledge to admit him into his Cabinet of 1892."

This is almost as embarrassing as reading Captain Coe's Finals in juxtaposition to articles on the evil of betting.

"AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION."

Mr. McKenna has refused to modify the sentences Messrs. Gott and Stewart are now serving in Armley Gaol for "blasphemy"—although the memorial forwarded to him contained the most cogent arguments for their release—even on the grounds of public policy. The Home Secretary, "after carefully considering the petitions, can find no sufficient ground to justify him, consistently with his public duty, in advising His Majesty to interfere in this case." Our own desire is to respect every man's honest belief—but we cannot approve of imprisonment for Bad Taste.

FERRER VINDICATED.

We have now more cause than ever to be proud of the fact that we were among the very few members who stood up on the floor of the House of Commons to support Victor Grayson's motion to discuss the Ferrer case. M. George Lorand (Ferrer's advocate) has now obtained from the Supreme Court of Madrid the raising of the embargo on the dead man's property. The judgment now given constitutes a censure by the Supreme (Civil) Court on the "judges" who sat on the court-martial. The decision recognises:—(1) That Ferrer was not in any way mixed up with the events of Barcelona; (2) that none of the persons prosecuted acted under his orders; (3) that in none of the 2,000 trials that followed upon the events has any trace been found of either the participation or the instigation of Ferrer. As a contemporary, commenting on the case, says. "This amounts to the proclamation of Ferrer's innocence by the highest jurisdiction of Spain." The tragedy of it!

GOOD NEWS.

There are few men in the Conservative Party more behind the scenes than Mr. Edward Goulding, the popular member for Worcester—who, by the way, was generally expected to be chosen for the position of Chief Whip on the retirement of Sir Alexander Acland-Hood. However, we are delighted to have it, on Mr. Goulding's authority, that when the present Ministry [illegible] of power it will be replaced "by a Government [illegible]ness men, who will apply practical business [illegible], such as business men would apply in their [illegible]siness." Loud cheers!

The Vulgar Yankee.

The invitations sent out by Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid to meet the Duke and Duchess of Connaught caused so much public squabbling in New York society that the hosts had to explain that they really couldn't invite everybody. The squabble was taken up in the Yankee newspapers, which evinced "a certain amount of democratic indignation at the idea that the Duke and Duchess could determine who should and who should not be included in the inner circle of republican aristocracy." The Yankees have long ago convinced themselves that they are the greatest nation on earth; when, we wonder, will they convince themselves that they are also the vu'garest? Which reminds us of our own dictum, that the most popular form of democracy is that which gives us the right to fraternise upon terms of equality with our social superiors.

Chair Mystery at St. Pancras.

The chair mystery at St. Pancras is not yet elucidated. First of all, the Baths Committee authorised the purchase of 300 chairs for the Prince of Wales' Road baths. Then the Superintendent crept up to the ear of a certain firm and "casually mentioned" that their tender had been accepted. Taking time by the forelock, the firm immediately delivered 300 chairs, all foreigners, though the purchase had not been confirmed by the Council. This process being too quick and also too mysterious, the Committee sent back the goods and "recommended that advertisements be issued inviting tenders for 300 chairs of British make," which has the honour of our approval. But will the Baths Superintendent have the goodness to explain why he was so fussy in carrying those glad tidings? In such matters the proper ethic for an official's tongue is to refrain from wagging.

Eighty-six—and Still at It.

In a little cottage in Grangelane, near Flockton, in Yorkshire, lives John Inman, and he lives alone. John commenced working at six years of age, has worked eighty years for the Denby Grange Colliery Company, and is still at it. As a memento of this record the directors have given old Jack a clock—on a marble slab! Who selected the present? Still, here's to the old chap—and also to the directors for keeping him on.

A Word to Mr. Churchill.

The Naval Reserve men in Shetland state that since the station at Fort Charlotte was closed, some three years ago, they have had to do all their training on board. They ask whether they should be sent on board ship for this purpose, when all they get to do is scraping off rust on the vessel, and then placing on paint. The answer is in the negative.

An Auchterarder Query.

From Auchterarder, in Perthshire, comes the query—*apropos* of our recent comments on Newark's new motto—"Why do individuals, as well as loyal and ancient boroughs, when they get up a bit in the world and take unto themselves coats of arms, almost invariably transcribe the motto chosen into Latin?" We presume the reason is that hardly anybody will be able to understand it. Another thing about mottoes is that they are usually so inappropriate. Auchterarder certainly made an appropriate choice when it selected the scriptural saying, "A city set on a hill cannot be hid," though that was before the days of skyscrapers. On the other hand, we certainly have heard of one Millar, who, having made a fortune out of snuff, painted on the panels of his carriage, "Wha wad hae thocht it that noses wad hae bocht it?"

Tariff Reform in Sweets.

There is a place called Sutton-in-Ashfield, near Nottingham. In Sutton-in-Ashfield they have a market, and a committee of the District Council to govern it. At its last meeting the Council received a deputation of holders of sweet stalls, and having heard their fervid and conscientious convictions, passed a resolution that a certain Mansfield "should not be allowed to sell his sweets there unless he gave an undertaking to sell the same at the standard price charged in the Nottingham and Mansfield markets." In other words, he is to be excluded because he sells his lovely lollypop and his curing coughdrops cheaper than his competitors. There is now a rumour that all retailers of fried fish are to cut the pieces to one size at one price, that anybody caught giving away a piece of fat ham with half-a-pound of tea will be deported, and that all the old clo' dealers must sell *a la carte*, and not in lots to match, on pain of the cancellation of their licences. Everything is to be rigorously kept up at Sutton-in-Ashfield—near Nottingham.

The Bill and the Books.

The Home Secretary says he has in hand the draft of a Bill to "prevent the publication and dissemination of demoralising literature." Let it be said at once that we should heartily welcome the most drastic Act possible for dealing with the publication or dissemination of real obscenities, but if Mr. McKenna proposes to judge literature and art by the standard of Stiggins, Chadband and Grundy, Unlimited, for the purposes of police prosecution—well, he may be opposed. That a vast deal of literary and photographic filth is secretly dumped into the country we all know; but there are people who say that the nude is always rude, and that such books as "Tess," for example, are demoralising and "unfit for publication." So we must be very careful how we proceed to legislate upon matters of taste.

The Bugle Call.

A certain young man of Manchester, name unnecessary, enlisted in the Special Army Reserve, while unemployed, in February, 1909. Finishing his six months' training in August, 1909, he was out of work until February, 1910. He then obtained employment, but was informed by his master that if he went for the annual training he would lose his job. Application was made to the authorities for leave of absence, and the reply was to the effect that "the excuse was insufficient." His employer made a similar application, and received a like answer. The young man says he has risen to non-commissioned rank and that his education certificates and character are good. "My reason for bringing this to your notice," he adds, "is that I think it a shame that a young man's commercial life should be thus blighted." Undoubtedly the call of the bugle is a handicap in his case, but what is the War Office to do? A Reserve man is not much use without his annual training. If it came to battle he would be too reserved.

Back to Der Vaterlandt.

A few days ago Herr Heinrich Paul Hasen surreptitiously entered the "Rifleman's Arms," at Swindon, and took a stole and other articles. In due course Herr Heinrich was gathered in by the police and brought to the seat of magisterial judgment. Then it was that Heinrich apologised. He had been out of work for three weeks, he said, and desired to return to Germany. The hearts of the Swindon magistrates were therefore inclined to mercy. They discharged Herr Heinrich, subscribed the fare among themselves, and sent him home. Vhat so great ting it to be a Deutcher vhas. So not you tink, eh? If he an Englische vhas he tree monts would haff—*nichtwar?*

SIMPLIFID SPELING.

The Simplified Speling So iety—they spel it Simplified Speling Sosiety, ofis ourz 11 tu 4, Saturdiaz ecsepted—send us a copy of a work explaining their object and purport on earth. The late Sir Isaac Pitman, the present Mr. Roosevelt, and the future Lord Carnegie have all been advocates of simplifid speling, but the only simpel thing abowt it, apparently, iz that yu kan spel how yu choos. Sur Izak Pitman preferd one way, the Simplified Spelin, Sosiety prefers anuther, and if we hav tu lisn tu awl th reformers at wuns, confuzhon wil be wors konfownded, and the last staj wil be wors than the first. The childr n wil be muddled in the skools and the elders wil be worrid intu ther graves. English spelling will not be made any the easier by trying to make it phonetic, if only for the reason that vocal sounds and their expression differ in every county and even in neighbouring towns. Even the examples of spelling given by the pundits of the Simplified Speling Sosiety are often neither consistent with phonetics nor with each other. Think of a Tipperary schoolmaster trying to teach the new spelling to a Dorsetshire lass, or an Aberdeen dominie drumming it into the head of a Cockney boy.

A TIP FOR A RECTOR.

That is a rather good story which the Rev. L. S Robinson, rector of Keighley, in Yorkshire, has been telling to a church audience. On one occasion he married a jockey, and when the ceremony was over the bridegroom, who probably felt as grateful as most of us do at such times, told the rector he would send him on a tip. "But I don't take tips," replied the rector. "But you really must take this one," persisted the jockey; then, lowering his voice to a whisper, he added, "Voltigeur for the Cambridgeshire." There the story ends—at clearly the most convenient point for the rev. gentleman.

BUSINESS IN THE POST OFFICE.

Writing from Dublin, a reader says he had, on a recent date, occasion to wire to a friend in Liverpool a money order, "together with a message saying that he would himself arrive in Liverpool by a certain day." Our reader arrived only to find that his friend had gone away without receiving either the message or the money, "having awaited the arrival of the message from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m., and wanting the money sent very badly." Returning to Dublin after spending that night and the following Sunday in Liverpool at a cost of £3, to no purpose, he applied for the return of the £1 1s. he had expended upon the order and the telegram. Seven days afterwards he received a letter enclosing 19s. 10d., and explaining that the reason of the non-delivery would be investigated. "Do not you think," we are asked, "I am entitled to get back the full amount I paid, seeing that the Post Office bunglers did not fulfil their part of the contract?" On the statement of the facts, we certainly think he is morally entitled to a complete refund, though, of course, the Post Office shelters itself behind its Regulations, which state that it is not liable for any loss or damage caused by *any* mistake or default (however careless or flagrant) in the transmission or delivery of a telegram.

A RELIGIOUS TEST.

We noticed in the columns of the *Chronicle* last week an advertisement for a shorthand-typist, "male, about 20, Church of England Communicant, total abstainer." Is it really necessary for a shorthand-typist to be a Church of England Communicant? Wouldn't he do his work just as well even if he were a Nonconformist? We might expect this kind of thing in a Church paper, but in a great Nonconformist daily—well, what *are* we coming to?

TO DEBATING SOCIETIES.

Here is a set form of motion which is being extensively taken up in Local Parliaments and other debating societies—"That the present system of Party Government is inconsistent with the best interests of the country, and ought to be abolished." As recently announced, we succeeded in carrying this resolution by a two to one majority in the West London Parliament, and we are delighted to see that it is being adopted in all parts of the country.

THE ARMED CRIMINAL.

Some recent remarks on armed criminals by Mr. Denman, the Marlborough Street Magistrate, will, we trust, be taken to heart by Members of Parliament. "I hope," he said "that some day a Bill of five lines will be introduced making it an offence which can be summarily dealt with to carry firearms." The present system of licences and of arming the police is the height of folly, as it enables any criminal to possess himself of firearms and use them in encounters with the police before a constable has any inkling of danger. There is no valid reason why anyone in this country should be allowed to carry firearms, and if doing so were made an offence punishable by imprisonment it would prevent a steadily growing danger to the public and the police. The craze for revolvers is increasing, and the movement for a Volunteer police force will accentuate the evil. The labour troubles that now theaten us make the need for such legislation very urgent.

NEGLECTED EWELL.

Fourteen miles from London, one and a half miles from Epsom, with a population of some three thousand four hundred souls, and no facilities for telegraphing, or telephoning, or the purchase of stamps, after two o'clock on Wednesdays! This condition exists at Ewell, on the main road between Sutton and Epsom, with two railway stations, and inhabited chiefly by well-to-do people of the upper and middle classes. It appears that Wednesday is "early closing" day, and that, as the post office business is transacted at a general shop in the High Street, anyone dwelling in this benighted locality wishing to wire, telephone, purchase stamps, etc., between the hours of two o'clock on Wednesday and the time of opening the shop on the following day must go to Epsom for the purpose. And as regards telegrams received between the hours mentioned, these, we learn, are dealt with from Espom, thereby causing serious delay. It is true that the railway companies accept telegrams for dispatch, but inasmuch as the stations are situated at the extreme ends of the village this entails a considerable journey for people living in the central portion. Surely the postal, telegraph, and other branches of the Post Office should be conducted at a *separate* building, and should be available *every day* of the week. We doubt if such a lack of facilities would be tolerated in any other place. Oh, for a Business Post Office!

A CHANCE FOR SPECULATORS.

A chemist, sixty-seven years of age, who states that he has been ruined by the cutting prices of stores, asks us to assist him to obtain money to perfect and patent (1) a motor bicycle which will not weigh more than 56 lbs., and which he claims will travel from London to Edinburgh at a cost of a few pence; (2) a motive power that can be produced at a very small cost, and which will reproduce itself; (3) a milk jug showing if one gets proper measure, at the same time detecting any adulteration. Should these inventions turn up trumps, then "cutting prices" will have done the old man a bit of good. Meanwhile, we shall be happy to put any speculative reader in touch with the inventor.

From London to Hongkong.

A reader at Hongkong sends us a copy of the *South China Morning Post*, in which it is announced that "Pastor Russell," the American preacher recently in London, is now out there, at the head of a committee of seven laymen appointed by the International Bible Students' Association to enquire into the administration of foreign missions to China, India and Africa. From what is said it is evident that the Association is in doubt as to these missions giving value for money. Among other things it wishes to know are (1) Whether the foreign missions are conducted on Christian "business" lines; (2) Whether the methods used are successful in reaching the heathen and bringing them to Christianity; (3) What are the inducements held out for the acceptance of Christianity and how enduring are the results; and (4) What is the attitude of heathendom towards the missionaries, and what are the prospects of foreign missions becoming self-sustaining? The Association expects the Russell mission to "report without fear or favour." We shall see whether the realisation is equal to the expectation. Meanwhile, wouldn't it save time if all the heads of the enquiry were boiled down to the simple question, "Is the game worth the candle?"

Scottish Bulls.

The classic definition of an "Irish Bull" by the Irishman who said, "If you saw ten cows in a field lying down an' wan of them was standing up, that would be the bull," has never been equalled by his Scots cousin, but cannie Sandy came very near it when the bailie said: "Let's see yer verbal agreement. Hand it up." He has, however, been beaten by the chairman of a Scottish Parish Council, who peevishly said: "I canna mak' heid nor tail of this dokyment. It's jist like Alphy and Omegy; it's got neither beginning nor end."

Sunday and Sense.

The Free Church Council Porthcawl-way are in the spasms of puritanic epilepsy. It appears that, despite all their protests, the seven days' licence has been granted to the local Coliseum. Instead, therefore, of the people of the little Welsh town hanging about the streets when they would rather not go to church, they will be able to enjoy a healthy entertainment. It is a terrible thing to contemplate.

A Derby Dustbin.

Before the Derby bench the other day appeared "a disreputable-looking man, minus one eye," charged with "attempting to commit a felony." This was the felony: The caretaker of the Midland Railway Institute saw the one-eyed man enter the yard at the rear of the premises and pass into a recess where a dustbin was kept. The witness watched, and eventually perceived the thief burgling the dustbin of sundry pieces of discarded food. Other witnesses having stated that they had previously seen him investigating the dustbin in a similar way, and that they had warned him of the serious consequences of his felonious enterprise, Messrs. Longdon, Laurie, and Shires, the magistrates, "told him he must keep away from the premises in the future," and now "only sentenced him to 14 days' hard labour." Blessed be the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

More Allies.

We thank our weighty contemporary *The Drapers' Record* for its powerful advocacy of the Business Government idea. It points out that, owing to modern conditions, "those who secure the highest positions in the State generally have little or no commercial experience." And we wonder that Germany is overtaking us!

Scotch Economies.

A correspondent residing in the county town of Argyllshire (Scotland) writes:—"It may interest your readers to know some of the little economies effected by the County Councillors of Argyllshire in regard to the police force of the county. The headquarters of the constabulary are at Lochgilphead, one of the most unsuitable places in the county to have the headquarters of any force, on account of the fact that there is no railway communication with it. There are two steamers a day in the winter season from the Clyde and Kyles of Bute ports (in the other parts of the county)—one a fairly swift passenger steamer, and the other a luggage boat which takes nearly the whole day to complete the journey. Is this not unreasonable? But that is not all. Furthermore, the office at Lochgilphead does not possess a telephone!"

"Ora Pro Nobis"—and the Skipper!

"Some twenty odd years ago," says a correspondent, "Mr. I. I. Virgo, London Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., was travelling on the Australian coast with Captain Lockyer on a steamer named the *Innamincka*. One Sunday morning Mr. Virgo, energetic and musical, commenced playing the piano and singing "Ora Pro Nobis." The Captain at once sent down from the bridge and ordered the piano to be locked, saying he did not allow songs to be sung on Sundays. At dinner the subject came up for discussion, Mr. Virgo protesting it was sacred music, but upon an appeal being made to me, I agreed with the skipper that it was pure comic opera! Doubtless Mr. Virgo will remember the incident."

More "Howlers."

The schoolboy howler commenced in innocence and is continued in iniquity. At first it was amusing, because its humour arose out of the unconsciousness of ignorance, but the professional funny man has stepped in, and probably not one in a hundred howlers which make copy for the newspapers and magazines nowadays is genuine. Those just published in a University paper lie under the strongest suspicion. For instance, "Grace Darling was a light housekeeper's daughter," "Lord Raleigh was the first to see the invisible A mada," and "There are five continents, a, e, i, o, u" appear very much overdone. Still, "howlers" are not unamusing as a game for winter evenings.

Four to Two Against.

Up to the age of forty the Dismal Dean of St. Paul's lived in two rooms, since when things have been different. But in his "honest opinion," he has been telling the members of the Browning Settlement happiness does not depend on being well off; and if he had not four noisy children he would go back to two rooms again. The idea that one may be happy without being well off is far from being novel. The rich have been explaining it to the poor for many years. Still, to be quite candid, Dr. Inge and other ecclesiastical and metallurgical experts should add that, taking one thing with another, it is nicer to be miserable on £10,000 a year than on £50. Ask any bishop.

Charles Dickens on Party.

"But let us not omit to notice Bellamy's kitchen, or, in other words, the refreshment-room common to both Houses of Parliament, where divers honourable members prove their perfect independence by remaining during the whole of a heavy debate, solacing themselves with the creature comforts; and whence they are summoned by whippers-in when the House is on the point of dividing, to give their 'conscientious votes' on questions of which they are conscientiously innocent of knowing anything whatever."

[From "A Parliamentary Sketch."]

THE NOSY EXCHEQUER.

The Government seems likely to go down to history as possessing the nosiest Exchequer on record. The Income Tax surveyors are now sending out forms to solicitors, trustees, and agents demanding a detailed statement of all money, value, profits, or gains of their clients, wards or others for whom they professionally act—"in pursuance of the Acts of Parliament." How far the Exchequer is entitled to push its inquisitive nose into the cupboards of professional confidence we are unable to say, but we imagine that the great majority of the demand notes have been pitched into the fire which consumeth utterly. The Exchequer will, however, have a chance of properly establishing their claims to nasal right-of-way into solicitors' deed boxes "in pursuance of the Acts of Parliament." Bless our prophetic souls, they will soon be sending out demand notes to our medical adviser claiming a right "in pursuance of the Acts" to a just and true account of our private birthmarks!

MARCHING ON.

"Business" is now the order of the day, very soon we shall have the head of every Public Department professing, at any rate, to apply its principles, and, in the opinion of the *Glasgow News*, the Foreign Office should be the first to do so. "To these superfine officials," says our contemporary, "mere trade and traders are beneath consideration. It is time that our Foreign Office was organised by a business man on business principles."

A BREAKFAST TABLE PROBLEM.

Last week's Problem was:—

Pears are bought at the rate of 5 for 1d., and an equal number at the rate of 7 for 1d. If they are sold at 6 for 1d. what is the loss per cent.?

Here is the solution:—

Each pear of the first set costs $\frac{1}{5}$d.; each pear of the second set costs $\frac{1}{7}$d.; ∴ every two pears, one from each set, costs $(\frac{1}{5}+\frac{1}{7})=\frac{12}{35}$d.

and they are sold for $\frac{2}{6}$d.$=\frac{1}{3}$d.

∴the loss on $\frac{1}{35}$d. is $\frac{1}{105}$d.; thus the proportion is

$$\frac{12}{35} : \frac{1}{105} :: 100$$

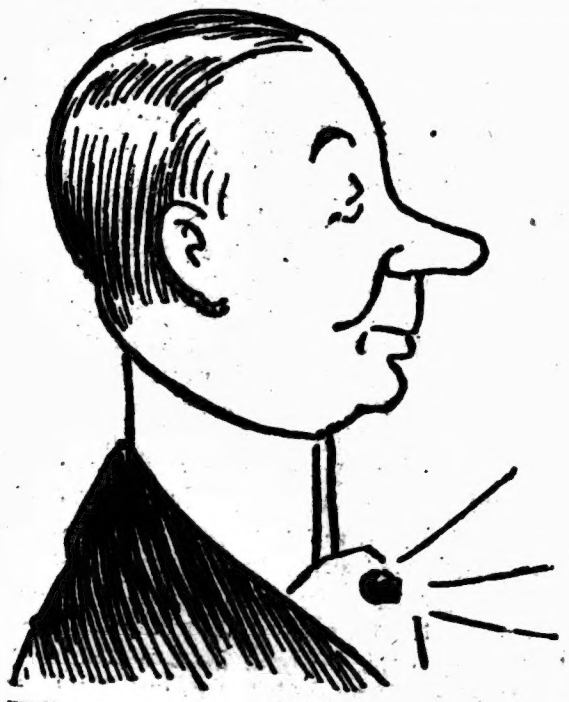
or $$36 : 1 :: 100$$

which gives $2\frac{28}{36}=2\frac{7}{9}$, *i.e.*, the loss per cent.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT."

IKEY to MOSES: I hear your varehouse vas burnt down last Vensday.

MOSES (*in a whisper*): No, Ikey, not last Vensday—*next* Vensday.



JENKINS PURCHASES, AT A FABULOUS PRICE, A SCARF PIN MADE FROM A PIECE OF HOUSE COAL.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For reporting a missionary as stating that: "Mushidi's (a Congo monarch) head was cut off and sent to the museum of a certain London institution in a petroleum tin. This week, every day till Saturday, HE WILL ADDRESS AT NOON A MEETING *in Aldersgate Street Y.M.C.A.,"*

THE DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting a police sergeant, in giving evidence in a recent case, as stating that defendant "again used bad language (A SAMPLE OF WHICH HE PRODUCED),"

THE HAMPSHIRE OBSERVER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For ending its report of a sermon as follows:—"They must say, 'Man does not live by bread alone.' HAMS CUT FROM KINGHAM'S BEST BACON, 7½D. PER LB.,"

THE NORTHAMPTON DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that it is "able to announce that Mr. Justice Lawrance, whose DEATH *has prevented him from attending the High Court since July last, will* RETIRE *from the judicial bench in March,"*

THE DAILY SKETCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For referring to the "proceedings against the Bowburn Workmen's Club at the Durham County Police Court on Wednesday, during which the late secretary stated that A MAN WAS HUNG *in the bar for seven days* BEFORE HE WAS ENTITLED TO LIQUID REFRESHMENT,"

THE DURHAM COUNTY ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting Mr. H. S. Foster, at a recent meeting of his constituents, as calling attention (apropos of the "Chinese slavery" topic) to "the fact that two of the Rand magnates had received BAROMETERS, *which he supposed was a tardy atonement for the injustice done to them,"*

THE EASTERN EVENING NEWS (Norwich)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising on the programme of the Olympia Music Hall, Shoreditch: "Sandwiches DUSTED *daily,"*

MR. J. PEERLESS (Proprietor of "The Bull and Pump," 72, Shoreditch High Street)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its report of a recent case, that a prisoner (charged with stealing from a guard's van and travelling on the railway without paying) "was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for the theft, and was PAID 10S. OR 7 DAYS *for the other offence,"*

THE TOTTENHAM AND EDMONTON WEEKLY HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that, at a thanksgiving service held at S. Mary Magdalene's Church, "a special orchestra accompanied the choir, and an anthem of praise, 'O CHAP *Your Hands,' was sung,"*

THE SUNDERLAND DAILY ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Entrants for this competition are reminded that "Biscuits" are not awarded for mere misprints, unless of a humorous or extraordinary nature. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. No coupons are required. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

THE GREAT MEAT SCANDAL.

SLIPSHOD MARKET INSPECTION—HARDSHIP TO HONEST BUTCHERS—THAT AUSTRALIAN "WORM."

GRAVE WARNING TO HOUSEWIVES.

By Dietist.

A recent Police Court case illustrates vividly how the system that prevails in London's meat markets operates in a ruinous manner upon butchers who have no intention of selling any but the best wholesome meat. London's Central Meat Markets have Inspectors, supposedly expert and capable of detecting any signs of disease in animals, and thus preventing meat dangerous to health being sold. Butchers who go to the London Markets naturally expect that any carcases they buy have been inspected and passed as good and fit for human food by those who are paid to perform that duty; they have, indeed, considered a purchase from the Central Market as equivalent to a warranty. It seems, however, that although it costs much money, there is in reality no effective inspection, but simply a trap into which meat salesmen and butchers alike fall —with disastrous results to their trade and reputation.

A Central Market Victim.

No one expects an ordinary butcher to be a veterinary surgeon, a bacteriologist and a skilled microscopist, and when he goes to the London Markets and pays the highest price for the "very best" meat, *which is supposed to have been inspected and passed as all right by expert officials*, he may well feel amazed and outraged if he is cited before the police magistrate as a public poisoner and purveyor of diseased meat.

This is exactly what happened to Mr. E. Cointat, who was recently fined £20 by the Marlborough Street Magistrate for "exposing a pig for sale that had about a dozen spots, occupying a space between the size of a threepenny bit and a sixpence, on one of the glands just under the jaw." Mr. Cointat proved that he had paid the highest price for the carcase and thought it so perfectly healthy that he hung it in front of his shop. When the Inspector of the Westminster City Council found a white spot in the gland, Mr. Cointat promptly cut up the entire carcase for full inspection. The salesman from the Central Meat Market, who has 30 years' experience, corroborated Mr. Cointat as to his having selected the best meat, and swore that the carcase "seemed to be perfectly healthy."

Some Sinister Facts.

One strange action on the part of the Westminster authorities was the *immediate destruction of the carcase*, as though it had been a case of "foot and mouth" disease or anthrax. No time or opportunity was given to the butcher to secure independent expert evidence that this minute portion of a gland was really tuberculous, or to call anyone from the Central Depot to examine the carcase. The market closed at one o'clock on the day of the seizure, and the first news the vendors had of it came on the next morning, but the carcase had been already destroyed. The Inspector agreed that there were no visible signs of tuberculosis about the pig beyond the neck. Here we have the immediate destruction of the whole of the carcase, the prevention of an independent testimony or examination, and the condemnation of and fine of £20 upon a tradesman of unsullied reputation—all upon the sole unsupported testimony of a Sanitary Inspector and a Medical Officer of Health. No wonder the magistrate recommended the Westminster City Council to "in future allow full facilities to those concerned in a charge of this kind to inspect and examine the carcase"!

A Medical Officer On Cooking.

In the course of the hearing, the Westminster Medical Officer declared that there was danger of the disease being spread amongst all who ate tuberculous meat, especially where the joint was more than 4 lbs. in weight, as the germs might in that case not be exterminated in the process of cooking."

How to Protect Traders and the Public.

This case reveals a laxity on the part of the Meat Market authorities and an arrogance on that of the Westminster officials that, in the interests of fairplay for butchers and the protection of the public, need attention. It is evident that the present market inspection is farcical and protects neither the vendors nor the butchers. At present these Inspectors have duties but no responsibilities, and it is high time that the inspection should be made a real one, and that every buyer of meat should receive an officially stamped sale note, certifying that the meat has been examined and is free from disease. The butcher who, as Mr. Cointat did, buys a carcase in good faith and at the best price, would then be protected against ruinous prosecutions; and the experts would have to settle the rights and wrongs where any outside official condemned a carcase. It is scandalous that the thousands of butchers in London and our big cities and towns should be liable to such prosecutions. "Selling or exposing diseased meat" is a phrase that sticks to a butcher and, in the interests equally of the trade and the public, we demand the early attention of the Government to the present scandalous state of affairs.

Australian Beef.

It will be remembered that some months ago we warned the public against purchasing Australian beef, owing to the discovery of a worm which was found to infect 80 to 100 per cent. of the flanks and briskets of the forequarters, and 61 to 70 per cent. of the hindquarters. The Local Government Board lost no time in fully investigating the character of the parasite, and some very learned Reports were issued on the subject. Ultimately we were assured that every precaution was adopted to see that the affected parts were removed before the carcase was offered for sale. We were told that this secured complete immunity to the consumer—one expert going so far as to express the view that the worm itself was quite an edible luxury! We do not, however, think this opinion commended itself to Mr. Burns, and, under his direction, the most stringent inspection was insisted upon—care being taken to see that the "wormy" parts were duly destroyed. But here arose another danger and, whilst on the subject of the meat supply, we desire to draw attention to it. Finding that, once arrived here, their consignments had to undergo the strict scrutiny to which we have referred, Australian exporters adopted the plan of removing the affected portions of the beasts before shipment, with the result that our own Inspectors were obliged to pass the carcases. *But what becomes of those removed parts?* What security have the public that they are not used for canned or corned beef? This is a question of vital importance to the health of the community, and we hope that the Colonial Secretary will look into it. Our own view is that the carcase should in every case be sent here whole, or else that it should be accompanied by a certificate from the Australian port authority to the effect that the removed portion had been destroyed.

"SECRET 'SIN'-EMATOGRAPH SHOWS."

GENERAL STAMPEDE—THREATENED ACTION BY THE TRADE ORGANISATIONS.

The West End touts for vice—whose methods we exposed last week—are now "lying low." So also are the proprietors of the illicit cinematograph shows, practically all of which have closed their doors—anyhow, for the time being. Women who have been in the habit of taking their clients to these nocturnal resorts are now eloquently silent on the subject—or, when questioned, blissfully ignorant.

Our articles have created a wholesome state of fear; people introduced to the proprietors of the exhibitions, even by their recognised agents, are regarded with suspicion, and the filthy films are being either destroyed or sent back to Paris.

Elusive by nature and by habit, the ghouls of moral garbage are no longer to be found in their accustomed haunts—public-house bars and such places. They have paid the rents and made themselves scarce—at any rate, until the hue and cry is over. Later on, perhaps, they will flutter back to the vile feast unless steps are taken to prevent them. In the meantime, the police, presumably, are apparently convinced—and rightly—that such places should be closed without a prosecution, with its publicity.

Jermyn Street, Lexington Street and Lisle Street, Leicester Square, have all suddenly ceased to harbour the exhibitions, much to the surprise and disgust of such of their patrons as have not read our articles, and who may at times be seen, late at night, driving from one address to another, vainly searching for the old shows!

For the moment, therefore, we have done with the unsavoury subject. Before leaving it, however, we should like to say that our campaign against this vile abuse of a beautiful invention had the hearty support of the most influential members of the trade and of its protective associations, whose solicitors, Messrs. Lloyd, Richardson and Co., of 3, Howard Street, Strand, London, will always be glad to be informed of any revival of activity in connection with these secret shows.

OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Your previous articles have had the effect of closing the secret and objectionable cinematograph shows, But the following true story upon this subject may be of interest to your readers.

Whilst engaged in my investigation of "massage" establishments, I had occasion to keep observation upon a certain lady. It was her custom to dine out every night at a well-known restaurant. It was here I met her. Having ascertained the table she usually occupied, I booked one close to it. From her flat I watched her step into her motor, then I followed in a taxi. We alighted at the restaurant within a minute of each other. During dinner I frequently glanced her way. She was dining alone. Before the last course had been served my interest had been duly noted, for she sent her waiter to me with her card, on which she had written, "If you have nothing better to do perhaps you will take coffee with me?" I accepted the invitation. I was profuse in my compliments. After liqueurs I suggested that perhaps I might be allowed to see her home. A few minutes later we were seated in her motor, speeding towards South Kensington.

THE PICTURE SHOW.

Arrived there, I yawned and told her that I was bored with life and all its so-called amusements. She was equal to the occasion. "I understand; let me try to amuse you," she said. She had some "fine albums"; would I care to see them? My answer was in the negative. I had seen many of their class. Then would I care to see a cinematograph display—real live figures? I at once fell in with the suggestion. She rang for her maid. "Marie," she said, "show this gentleman the cinematograph pictures." I was then conducted into another room, at the end of which was stretched a white screen. Marie switched off the electric light, and a couple of minutes later the pictures began to move.

A week later she vacated her flat, sold her massage establishment, and cleared off.

I shall keep my eyes open and let you know when any of the shows start again.

MEANNESS OF THE L.C.C.

HOW THE COUNCIL PREFERS TECHNICALITIES TO EVIDENCE.

[*Below we show how the great Metropolitan authority splits hairs to deprive people of their livelihood.*]

An interesting case recently came before the Bow Street magistrate. A firm of variety agents sought to reverse a decision of the Licensing Committee of the L.C.C. which had deprived them of their livelihood.

No evidence was tendered at Bow Street, as counsel for the L.C.C. took the preliminary objection that the magistrate could not hear the case because the applicants had not given the Council four days' *previous* notice of their intention to apply to him to hear an appeal from their decision.

Here is an exact quotation of the part of the Act:—

> Any person who deems himself aggrieved by the refusal of the Licensing Authority to grant or renew a licence may appeal to a Metropolitan Police Magistrate provided that such appeal is made within fourteen days from the date of such refusal, and that not less than four days' notice in writing of such appeal is sent to the Licensing Authority.

The facts were:—

The L.C.C. refused on December 15th to renew the licence.

The agents applied to the magistrate on December 28th, and he fixed January 12th to hear the appeal.

On December 29th, one day after the summons was granted, notice was given to the L.C.C. in writing.

The L.C.C. then asked the agents to consent to the appeal being heard on January 19th, to suit their counsel's convenience, and this was agreed to.

The L.C.C. had therefore 21 days' notice of the appeal.

The Council, apparently entertaining doubts as to the merits of their case against the agents, and fearing to have their decision upset as on a previous occasion, raised a technical objection that four days' *previous* notice of the agents' application on December 29th had not been given, and contended that the magistrate had no jurisdiction.

It was argued on behalf of the agents that until the magistrate had signed the information, no notice of the appeal could be given, that the Act did not state four days' previous notice should be given, and that as notice had been given on the following day the L.C.C. had really had 21 days' notice of the appeal.

Would it be believed that this point was discussed for half-an-hour and that the magistrate held that, as the notice to the L.C.C. was not given four days before the first application was made to him, he had no jurisdiction, though he offered to state a case, and awarded the L.C.C. five guineas costs if the agents did not proceed with the matter, and twenty guineas if they did?

But this mean conduct on the part of the Council was applicable to another portion of the case. An Inspector in the Public Control Department of the L.C.C., hearing that a clerk had left the firm in question, wrote him:—

L.C.C. PUBLIC CONTROL DEPARTMENT.
Jan. 16th, 1912.

DEAR SIR,—

I am informed by a friend of yours that for some time you were engaged with ——— as dancing instructor, but as you have now left, I would like to meet you concerning him. I will be at the "Prince of Wales'," Brixton, to-morrow (Wednesday), Saloon Bar, at 11 a.m., and if convenient to you, would like to meet you there. If you cannot come to-morrow will you please make an appointment anywhere at your earliest convenience. The appeal is down for hearing on Friday, and I would be obliged if you could meet me before then.

Yours truly,
P. MCINTYRE.

P.S.—My private address is 8, Walbutton Road, Brockley, S.E. If you write making an appointment, please write to this address, as I will get it in time. I might not if you write to the office.

This document is indisputable proof of undignified touting for evidence and of using the time alleged to be for the convenience of counsel in endeavouring to obtain further information.

No evidence was given before the Committee or the magistrate which the agents had an opportunity of refuting, and they are prevented, owing to a technical point, from making that body justify its action in refusing a licence.

GOD'S ENGLISHMAN WAKES UP.

By Norman Tiptaft.

[Another of Mr. Norman Tiptaft's eloquent pleas for the poor. Of course Mr. Tiptaft is a Socialist, but, as the late Lord Salisbury said, "We are all Socialists now."]

My esteemed friend John Jones—who, by the way, is a first cousin of my equally esteemed friend Bill Smith—is possessed with an unfortunate habit of thinking for himself. In the name of public morality I protest. It means the break-up of the home, the abolition of religion, the downfall of the Empire and the end of all things. I ask, as a citizen, if the British workman once commences to think, whatever will happen to us all?

John Jones is an excellent workman. To be quite definite, he is a jeweller in Birmingham. Now, the working jewellers of Birmingham—with the discreditable exception of John Jones—are a most respectable body of men. They uphold the dignity of labour—theirs is the honest toil which is its own reward. They have quite rightly and properly declined to soil their hands by contamination with a trade union. They know that trade unions are godless institutions and make for—pardon my repeating it at length—the break-up of the home, the downfall of the Empire and the end of all things. Some interfering person—probably an Anarchist or a German spy—a little time since tried to estimate the average wage that the adult working jewellers received. He came to the conclusion that it must be nearly 25s. a week, though, as it is a usual thing for many of them to work short time between Christmas and August, it probably amounts to less. That is not, perhaps, quite as much as some of the shareholders draw who never even see the various buildings where the "hands" work, but it is obviously for an unskilled trade like the jeweller's a lot of money. It is questionable if it is not too much.

For that reason most of the working jewellers are anxious for Tariff Reform, because they know that if prices go up and they pay more for bread and lard and all the other luxuries they buy they will be better off. It was, therefore, with deep regret I found my friend John Jones had declined to be bound by the proper habits and customs of his class—that he had suggested a trade union for his fellow workmen, that he had said Tariff Reform and Free Trade were equally rotten, since he starved under either, that he had even said the church which talked about golden streets in Heaven and tolerated slums on earth—though it couldn't stand a boxing match or a music-hall dance—was a sham and a humbug. I felt it my duty to call and see him—to try, if possible, to reclaim the prodigal and lead him back again to the fold of respectability and honest toil—not to mention the dignity of labour and 25s. a week.

Alas! I fear he is hopeless. One might tolerate, perhaps, the idea of one soul being lost in the outer darkness, but if something isn't done he will contaminate others. The blight of trade unionism will invade Birmingham, the jewellery worker will lose faith in Tariff Reform, the churches will be neglected—Heaven will be left to the saints, Hell to the deserving—and I am sadly afraid the worker will turn his attention to the slum property where he lives and the pay roll of the factory he works in.

That is what John Jones told me, anyhow.

I asked him if he didn't know that the People's Budget, the Licensing Bill, the Education Act, the Lords' Veto and the Insurance Act had already brought in the Millennium. I mentioned those measures because I felt sure he couldn't be a Tory, owing to the disrespectful way he spoke of Tariff Reform.

In a most cynical manner he said the People's Budget had imposed goodness knows how many millions of fresh taxation on the workers, that the Licensing Bill was an idiotic way of tackling the problem—that the real solution lay in compelling the brewers to brew pure light beer, to make the publicans supply other refreshments, to do away with all the dirty, miserable pubs we now have, and to have wide-open cafés on the Continental principle.

The Education Act, he said, was merely an attempt to substitute one set of dogmas for another, and while the various sects were busy quarrelling over the children's souls, their bodies were neglected and their minds bewildered.

The Lords' Veto, he further remarked, was no worse than the Veto of the Cabinet, who cursed the Upper House on every platform in the country and then created more peers than their alleged opponents (who were all the time their friends and cousins, and who divided the "boodle" with them).

As for Lloyd George's Insurance Act, it smashed the trade unions, gave some small advantages as compensation to the well-paid workman, and told the ill-paid casual labourer—who was unorganised and usually had no vote—to go to the Devil.

I felt hurt—my friend John Jones was evidently forgetting his proper place. I harked back to Tariff Reform, Small Holdings, a big Navy, and no Home Rule for Ireland. It was even worse. "Look here," he said, "if Tariff Reform was any good to me d'yer think all the big landlords and capitalists who are shouting for it would want it? Have they ever wanted anything that was any good to me and my class? Haven't they robbed us for God knows how many thousands of years?"

"But," I said, "Small Holdings—Three Acres and a Cow?"

"Small Holdings be damned! The most hard-working and the poorest people are the small-holders in France."

"Well, now," I said, "you'll admit we want a big Navy. We must defend our country. 'The stately homes of England! how beautiful they stand,' and all that sort of thing, you know?"

"Our country, is it—eh? I don't own a yard of it. I never did and never shall. I live in it only by the kind permission of those who do. The Germans take *our* country, will they?—they'll have a mighty hard job to take any of mine."

"But"—I made a final effort—"this matter of Home Rule for Ireland—you won't see your fellows handed over to the iniquitous tyranny of the Romish Church?"

"Won't I?" he said. "They've seen me handed over to the iniquitous tyranny of a wage that won't keep the bodies and souls of me and my family together. I've buried three and I've got three more. Those I've buried are better off."

"I'm sorry," I said, "that you don't appreciate the advantages you enjoy—your freedom from trade union tyranny, your right to labour as you please, your political and religious liberty, your citizenship of the greatest Empire the world has ever known. I don't know where you get your ideas from, but they are subversive of all that makes for the country's prosperity. I hope you will alter them quickly. I hope you will be reasonable, and I hope you will remember the state of life to which Providence has been pleased to call you. After all, what would you have?"

Then John Jones stood up with his face toward the little window of the front room in which we were talking, and as he did so the sun came out from behind a cloud and threw into high relief the black, ugly factory which faces his house and showed up the various oddments of furniture in the room, and shone, perhaps most brightly of all, on John Jones himself. And as I watched him the factory over the way grew small and insignificant, but the figure of John Jones grew till it seemed to fill the room.

As if through a mist he began to speak, and in his voice there was the cry of all the workers of the world.

"What would *I* have," he said—"I? Nothing. I can suffer hunger, thirst, poverty, disease, death, and never flinch. *For myself I care nothing.* But for my wife, my children—for the wives and children of the men I work with—for them food, clothing, home, education, *life*. We workers *live in a hell*. We need no eternal fires—no burning lake. You have never been out of employment six months; have never lost a job because you tried to get a little more of life's good things for the class to which you belong; have never seen your children die because you couldn't afford the nourishment to keep them alive. I have. We produce the world's wealth—we live on the world's husks. Conservatism—Liberalism—churches, chapels, Heaven, eternity—what do we care for these things! Give us—my God, it's a little thing to ask—give us *THIS day our daily bread!*"

* * * * * * *

John Jones has lost his job. His employer said he wouldn't have agitators round his workshop. Quite right and proper sentiment. I hope it will be a lesson to him.

HOW LUNATICS ARE ILL-TREATED.

By "MENS SANA."

[We have frequently called attention to scandals in connection with our large—and small—lunatic asylums. Below an asylum attendant reveals some startling cruelties practised upon the helpless inmates.]

It is not for the purpose of making out that asylum doctors do not know their duty, or do their duty, that I say that they are utterly ignorant as to what goes on under their very noses. It is a very remarkable thing that attendants (especially young ones) think that it is really clever to treat some poor devil of a patient into giving some bold display of violence that would make an ordinary person shudder.

In asylums it is no uncommon thing to hear a group of attendants telling each other how they "put So-and-So through it," each of them hoping that he is outdone by the other, and then boasting that he believed the lunatic. It is almost unknown for one attendant to give another away—if he did he would be "dangerous," and his chances of getting in another institution very remote.

"Bouncing."

The most common way of "pasting" a patient is by "bouncing" him. We will say a patient becomes refractory and strikes an attendant (the patient always strikes the attendant). He is straightway fixed by four attendants and taken to a room where no one can get a view of the proceedings. Here he is seized by the attendants, one on each arm and one on each leg. On a given signal he is swung up as high as is possible and then dropped on his back. This is repeated until all the "go" is fairly knocked out of him. Should his head become cut or injured by coming in contact with the ground, it is reported that he slipped up on the polished floor. Should he have sense enough to report it to the doctor as it occurred, well, the "evidence" of four attendants cannot be put on one side for the "silly idea" of a lunatic! But if an attendant suspects a strict enquiry from the medical officer, it is easy to square a "silly" patient with a piece of tobacco, or an extra feed, to say anything, and that, of course, settles the matter.

If there happens to be a padded room in the ward, he is, of course, bounced there—there is less likelihood of injury injury with the padded floor.

STRANGLING.

Another favourite way of "putting them through it" is by strangling. This consists of putting a patient as near to death as is possible by strangulation. The usual way of an attendant is to take a stocking (generally one of the patient's who is troublesome) and tighten it around the throat—then hang on until the patient loses consciousness. It is amazing that dozens of lunatics are not killed outright, but attendants are, as a rule, quite experts at "timing" this operation, and in the event of their going too far artificial respiration can generally be successfully applied. The stocking never marks or bruises the outside of the throat, but frequently injures it permanently inside. One can imagine what a man feels like after this has been repeated three or four times. He is generally too scared to report it, for fear of a repetition; but if he is spotted doing so he will only be worse off in the long run. He has no marks to show, and any further reports from him would be taken very little notice of. The only persons who see this are attendants, and you can put all your money on them having the winning tale.

A "BATH."

This is by far the most cruel way of treating a patient. It can be said without any hesitation whatever that many a patient has been practically killed through it. It is cruelly intensified by reason of being performed on patients who are, in pretty well every case, old or paralytic and bedridden. Say, a patient who is more or less constantly dirty in his habits is found in this condition by an attendant immediately after being seen to for the same thing. It is, of course, annoying, but attendants are taught to expect this in asylums. The patient is taken to the bathroom, where only attendants are present. A bath is filled with cold water (never mind the weather) and the patient is gently dropped in the bath with a towel around his ankles to keep him from splashing. Another attendant puts a towel around his throat, and under he goes. His arms are left free, and all he can do is to try to raise himself up with these. The effect of this treatment on a feeble patient is easily imagined. Should a "sensible" patient be near, as the victim is being taken back to bed, he hears—"Feel better now you're nice and clean, Daddy?" Of course the patient (if he is not past speaking) says "Yes." Those poor devils will say "Yes" to anything.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXXIX.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

DOES PATRIOTISM PAY?

Charles R. Hooker was arrested a few days ago at Ludgate Hill for imitating the methods of the Y.M.C.A. He was armed with a card capable of receiving a total of [illegible] and the object of his collection was to buy food and milk for himself and his wife. In ten minutes he had gathered in the huge sum of one penny, when he was pounced upon by a police constable and subsequently charged before the Lord Mayor with begging. He was discharged with a caution.

Hooker was born in Camberwell in 1882. Both his parents died while he was a baby, so he was adopted by an aunt. On leaving school he went to work at a smith's shop. Here he remained three years, when he had to leave on account of bad trade. He then joined the 4th Battalion East Surrey Regiment, and subsequently was transferred into the Royal Artillery. After serving in South Africa throughout the war (for which he received the medal and clasps) he proceeded to India with his regiment, in which he remained another six years. Having no longer need of his services, he was transferred to the first class Army Reserve on January 6th, 1909, with a character marked "Good." For three months after leaving the Service he tried the Soldiers' Employment Association for work, and failed to get it. By tramping and writing he managed to obtain a washer's job at the Brixton Motor Garage. Then came a strike, which threw him out of work. His next place was at Smithfield Meat Market. To better himself he left this situation to take one as caretaker, at a pound a week, with quarters, gas and coals free. He was discharged in order to make room for cheaper labour. His character is everything that could be desired, but from that day to this he has been unable to find any regular employment. His last job was as an auxiliary postman at the G.P.O., Mount Pleasant.

The man has another year to serve in the Army Reserve, for which he gets paid 6d. a day; but 6d. a day will not keep a man and wife, and we would remind the War Office authorities that here is a man down on paper to go in the first fighting line, yet his constitution is being undermined by lack of food. We wonder how many other Army Reserve men are placed in a similar position.

Perhaps some of our readers can help this man?

We have received th following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CLXXVI.—"Pangbourne," 20s.; T. E. R. P., 2s. 6d.; T. R. L., 20s.

CLXXVII.—"Dorset," 5s.; L. T., 20s.; M. W., 2s. 6d.; G. W. P., 1s.; H. W., 3s.; J. H. N., 2s.; G. B. T., 5s.; "Force," 2s. 6d.; "Ledsham," 5s.; M., 5s.; "Nugget," 2s. 6d.; E. L. N., 2s. 6d.; A. B., 5s.

CLXXVIII.—"Chum," 2s.; E. S. L., 1s.; "Essex," 2s. 6d.; A. B., 5s.

We have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt from H. B. S. E. of a postal order for 2s. for the benefit of Jack Harris, the sweep whose case we recently referred to.

We have had great pleasure in forwarding to the lad Sills, whose ill-treatment by the Army authorities we referred to in our issue of January 20th, a postal order for 20s. from L. E. H. M. (Hastings).

On going through the papers of our late Assistant Editor we find the following postal orders, etc., from the persons named. These have not reached those for whom they were designed owing to change of address or—when other than "Human Documents"—in consequence of our being unable to trace the intended beneficiaries. Unless the senders of these amounts instruct us to the contrary, we shall distribute the moneys, at our discretion, amongst the many deserving cases which come to our notice:—"A Salvationist," 1s.; "Hammersmith," 1s.; J. G., 20s.; R. M., 10s. 6d.; "Birmingham," 2s. 6d.; E. S., 5s.; "Sutton," 2s. 6d.; C. D. S., 20s.

"THE BROTHERHOOD CHURCH."

SPIRITED DEFENCE BY A DISCIPLE.

With reference to our recent paragraph about the "Brotherhood Church" at Beeston, Leeds, we have received the following from one of its disciples—Mr. Thomas H. Ferris :—

We are simply a handful of idealists, more or less closely associated in an attempt to stick up for the real teaching of Christ, instead of the sickly trash that does duty for religion in the average Mammon-kept church or chapel.

We conceive Jesus to have demanded men's allegiance to himself, instead of to the State, and we understand him to have laid down rules of conduct infinitely superior to any that could be formulated, or enforced, by any legislative "authority."

It is palpably impossible for anyone not a trained humbug to reconcile the spirit of Christ's teaching with the spirit of our Criminal Administration, our Land Laws, our aggressive Armaments, and our cut-throat Commerce.

Therefore we have shaken off the dust of our feet against these things, and against the "authorities" who create and maintain them. We will have neither part nor lot in the mechanism by which corruption is regulated and upheld.

We are not seeking to boss or interfere with other people's affairs, but we insist that as conscientious persons we know very much better what is right for ourselves and our children than do the "authorities," and we are not going to stand any interference from our moral inferiors—although I trust we shall always be open to learn from any worthier source.

It is, of course, preposterous to associate us in any way with the Pigott crew, with whom we have neither kinship nor colourable similarity, either of belief or practice.

We have no sexual heresies of the "superman" variety, and the only substantial difference between ourselves and any other religious organisation is that we have given up trying to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, or serving the world with one hand and Christ with the other. We differentiate quite clearly and consistently between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world ; and so we manage all our affairs on a religious basis, and never dream of appealing to the laws of the world.

We think that was the idea of Christ, when he said, "The Prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."

Now, whether you do or don't approve of our challenge to the stuck-up prigs who reckon they can govern better than Christ, you will at least, I trust, do us the justice to confuse us no longer with any of those singular sectarian examples of religious decadence, from the Christian Scientists and the Theosophists to the Salvation Army and the Pigottites, who unite worldliness, sensationalism, and a monstrous arrogance with an utter inability to take care of themselves in controversy.

We are always ready to give the defence of any institution or person attacked or criticised in our columns, and we gladly publish the above letter. It still leaves us in the dark, however, as to why the Brothers and Sisters, whose religion is "communism *in all things*," object to register formally the births of their babies. In the same way, we cannot quite picture the lowly Christ describing the average citizen of our country as "a trained humbug," or telling his disciples "not to stand any interference" from their "moral inferiors." But, then, we are not very good Christians ! By the way, how many Beeston babies are there ?

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

MARQUESS OF HUNTLY'S DISCLAIMER.

With reference to our recent paragraphs under this heading, Messrs. Fowler and Co., solicitors to the Marquess of Huntly, desire to have it made quite clear that neither the horses nor the dray which were concerned in the accident resulting in the death of the man Alderson were the property of his lordship, and, although damage was done to Mr. Moss's trap, they deny that he was injured himself. Messrs. Fowler and Co. add that Lord Huntly has at no time admitted liability for the damage.

TALES OF THE ROAD.

STORIES TOLD BY "COMMERCIALS."

[In connection with our articles under the title of "Slaves of the Road," we offered prizes for the best Commercial Room Stories. We have, accordingly, much pleasure in awarding Two Guineas for the following].

GOLDEN SILENCE.

By R. G. Gillman.

The boy was "out" for the first time, making a trial trip. We all knew it, without his telling.

He seemed to be a little depressed, giving one the idea that he did not find travelling the giddy holiday he expected.

It was Angus who spoke to him presently, Angus who by virtue of his seniority, and his big heart, usually did speak a cheering word to novices.

"Things gone a bit sideways ?" he asked.

"Yes, a little !" said the boy.

"Tell me !" Angus said. "I've been at it for forty years, and I know the wrinkles of the game."

The boy cleared his throat.

"I don't hit it off with the customers," he said. "I'm polite to them ; I try to put them on to the good lines ; I make myself pleasant to their wives, and daughters, and if I see anything going on that I think they ought to know, I give them the tip. I can't do more. Yet somehow I don't quite strike it."

"Try doing a little less !" Angus said.

"Eh !" said the boy, plainly startled.

"I'll tell you a story," said Angus, "with a moral."

"I had been out some time, long enough to know better," the old fellow began, "when it happened. I had known Minnie Mason for an appreciable time. She acted as assistant to her father, with whom I had a decent little account, and was a pretty girl, with a lively, flippant manner. And, between ourselves, she had no objection to a mild flirtation with a young, unattached traveller. I rather got to look forward to calling upon Mason, for I always managed a chat with Minnie, and she was something of an ally in business, putting me on to what the old man was likely to be buying, before I saw him. Once or twice, when I stayed the night in the town, I took her out on the river. Well, to cut the yarn short, I called one day, but did not see Minnie. I did think of asking the old man where she was, but I had begun to have a glimmering of the great truth that silence is golden, and I held my tongue. And as he said nothing about his daughter I felt that I was on the right track in saying nothing.

"I'm not prepared to say how many times I called without seeing Minnie, but certainly some months went by before I saw her again. Then it was through a chance call.

"When I marched into the shop, who should be behind the counter but Minnie. For a moment I hardly recognised her ; there was a change in her I could not define.

"'Hullo !' said I, 'so you are home again, Minnie ?'

"She didn't seem exactly pleased to see me.

"'I'll tell father that you are here !' she said, a little abruptly.

"Then I saw, and the whole thing was clear to me. She was married, and was expecting soon to become a mother. I kicked myself for a young ass, not to have thought of the real reason of her absence before. It was not likely that a pretty girl like Minnie would go begging for long. And she would not be too keen on my seeing her just then, especially considering that I had admired her. She would know that she was not looking altogether her best.

"In a minute or two old man Mason came bustling into the shop, and I got to business, and successfully pulled the order that I had promised myself. And then feeling self-satisfied, I spouted.

"'You never told me,' I said, jovially, 'that Minnie was married !' The old man looked at me oddly, for half a minute. Then he said slowly :

"'Damn it ! She isn't !'

"There, that's the story ! I've seen a thundering lot of things since, as every man on the road does, but I never mention them."

Next week we will award several Consolation Prizes for Short Stories.

Eckford's

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£250 for Amateurs.
£125 for Cottagers.
£125 for Boys or Girls under 16.

There are two reasons, both equally good, for this competition, as you will admit. First, and foremost, Eckford's, as the premier Sweet Pea Specialists of the world, wish to mark their tangible appreciation of the public preference for their unsurpassed Sweet Pea Seeds—a preference based upon the unexcelled standard they have always maintained.

To grow from Eckford's Seeds spells success—there is nothing to be doubtful or dubious about, either as regards the magnificent quality of the flowers, or on the score of their hardiness.

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Again, Eckford's desire to promote even more than before the cult of the Sweet Pea. They wish everyone to become experts in the art of growing Sweet Peas to perfection, and they imagine no better way than the medium of a friendly competition—open to all.

It matters not whether you grow extensively, or on a limited scale—for Eckford's have graded the contests in classes.

The professional grower is restricted to his brethren—the amateur who has the aid of help is in a division by himself—those with modest gardens are also catered for, whilst even children have a section to themselves.

The Competition is open to all. Simply send now to Wem for free particulars, and enter at once.

SPECIAL NOVELTY OFFER FOR 1912.

CLARA CURTIS (Waved).—A fine waved primrose of splendid substance; very free flowering; strong in growth and stem; fine for exhibition. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

W. T. HUTCHINGS (Waved).—A very fascinating flower of soft cream, overlaid with a delicate pink; exceedingly warm when bunched; a strong grower, frequently producing four flowers on long stems; of fine size, and splendid for exhibition. In sealed packets, 7 seeds, 3d.; 15, 6d.; 30, 1s.

OTHELLO (Waved).—A beautiful self-coloured giant chocolate, of splendid substance and robust habit. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

APPLE BLOSSOM (Waved).—This, as its name implies, is a beautiful flower of apple blossom colour, of giant size, and, like most of the waved varieties, is a very strong grower, giving long, strong stems, frequently four-flowered. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

APRICOT (Waved).—A beautiful light apricot overlaid with rich cream pink; delightful for table decoration; one of the most superb; frequently giving fours on its splendid long stems. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 6d.; 10, 1s.

MISS QUEST (Waved).—A pure, bright, almost self rose, robust, and of giant size; beautifully waved; a bold flower; exquisite for cutting, and fine for exhibition. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 6d.; 10, 1s.

ASTA OHN (Waved).—A pretty waved lavender overlaid with rose; a very charming flower of good size and substance, a strong grower. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

CERISE (Waved).—A fine bold, beautifully waved, true cerise; a very strong grower, giving generally four flowers on long, strong stems; a fine exhibition variety, and exquisite for cutting. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

ST. GEORGE (Improved Waved).—This is a very charming flower; as accurately as one can describe, it is a deep, exquisite coral of giant size and splendid substance; is a fine exhibition variety, and frequently produces four flowers on long, strong stems. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 6d.; 10, 1s.

DODWELL F. BROWNE (Waved).—This is a very beautiful intense bright crimson, three and four-flowered, almost a self; a true Giant Waved variety of intense King Edward VII. colour. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

MRS. HENRY BELL (Waved).—A beautiful rich apricot ground overlaid with a soft pink, which deepens towards the edges of both standards and wings. Exceedingly dainty for table or other decoration; finely waved, and frequently four-flowered; on long, strong stems, a strong grower. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

TERRA-COTTA.—A bright cerise standard overlaid with terra-cotta; wings soft rose; a very showy and free-flowering garden variety, and exquisite for table; most effective under artificial light. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 6d.; 10, 1s.

EVELYN HEMUS (Waved).—A warm cream shading to yellow with a picotee edge of terra-cotta pink; of great size and refinement; standard and wings beautifully waved, and nearly always four-flowered. In sealed packets, 10 seeds, 3d.; 20, 6d.; 40, 1s.

PICOTEE (Waved).—A giant waved flower, pure white with a beautiful picotee edge of carmine; in most cases the flowers are borne in fours on a long, strong stem; and they are well placed and of splendid substance. A really beautiful flower and fine for exhibition. In sealed packets, 5 seeds, 3d.; 10, 6d.; 20, 1s.

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6 splendid varieties, suitable for cutting, 50 seeds of each, 1s. 6d. post free, cash with order.

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24 giant waved varieties, new and up-to-date, fine for exhibition. 10 seeds of each for 5s. 6d. post free.

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FREE. A specially written booklet on Sweet Pea Growing given with every order. Send to WEM to ensure satisfaction. Send a postcard to-day for large illustrated and coloured catalogue. It gives full particulars of all novelties in Sweet Peas for 1912, also complete particulars of the £1,000 offered in prizes for growers of Eckford's Sweet Peas, and contains full list of all flower and Vegetable Seeds.

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HENRY ECKFORD, SWEET PEA SPECIALIST (DEPT. 222), WEM, SHROPSHIRE.

THE TRUTH ABOUT INDIA.

By Mary Forbes.

[*We must not be taken as endorsing all the views of our contributor, although, taken as a whole, they are, in our opinion, based upon a substratum of ugly truth—which it is well to bear in mind at a time when we are hearing so much of the "glory" of our Indian Empire.*]

"Behind the curtain," with those "not to be spoken of," is the source and centre, the beginning and end, of India's misery and India's danger. So it has always been and so it ever will be while India believes her daughters to be as beasts of the field and treats them as worse than that. Mohammedan and Hindoo, there is not a straw to choose between them when it is a matter of their womenfolk. The British establish schools throughout Hind, education is cheaper than rice even in these "rice allowance" times. Indian children, up to a certain age, are intelligent and eager to learn—and how many girls are in each school? From the coolie who wants his daughter to work and earn directly she can walk, to the ordinary Brahmin who desires to sell his girl-babies in marriage to rank, influence or wealth, all have but two ideas of woman—one as an instrument of bodily pleasure, the other as slave and beast of burden. Talk they never so charmingly, write they never so flowingly of their advanced thoughts and British ideals, this is what they think, believe and act.

As Indian Men Have Made Her.

Up and down the scorching ways of India walk, veiled or with clear faces, the happiest of Indian womanhood—the low-caste. They labour in the fields, sleep on the earth, bear innumerable children, are starved, beaten, tormented by mothers-in-law, treated as pariah dogs when old and widowed; but they are free of ground, air and sky, often revenge themselves for a husband's infidelity by immorality, run away with their lovers, kill the men they dislike, "get even" with their male tyrants in dozens of cruel, subtle ways, and prove themselves, as do all Indian women, true children of the men who begot them. Behind the curtain that shrouds the high-caste the women are less patient, more serpentine in cunning and in murder. Long days of laziness breed more than thoughts; few Indian men keep separate houses for each wife or harem girl; sensual lives are not fine grounds for the growth of the virtues; the harem-owner has his peculiar methods of protecting himself, and the law (which does not know what or how many women are under his roof) is on his side; yet the crimes that take place "behind the curtains" outnumber in figures and ghastly brutality all those committed in the open. Princesses make paramours of syces and cooks, then poison or stab their base-born lovers; suttee is still practised in holes and corners, the papers reporting gravely "another serious calamity through a kerosene lamp" (not a native paper or magazine will print a word against the practice of burning widows, and the British Government has often been petitioned by Indian men, educated at English colleges, to allow the custom to be resumed); rajahs are killed that sons may reign; slaves are crippled or horribly disfigured; the "punishments" of torture by thirst, by starvation, by a kind of rack for the hand and foot, by the common Indian poisonous herbs; incest; child-assault; all these and more horrors flourish, as they have always done, in woman-India to-day. The Indian woman is no worse or better than her sisters of other lands. She is merely what Indian men have made her, and she does her masters credit.

Two Sides Of It.

Natives of India vehemently deny that their women are unhappy. The noble Mahommedan and Hindoo declare that their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters would resent as an insult of the worst kind any attempt to make them unveil, step forth from the purdah, or enjoy the natural beauties of the world in freedom. In the harems, from those of the palaces to those in the merchants' houses, the cry is ever, from the youngest to the oldest, "Give us freedom!" To a man this is not said, of course. The enmity of the Indian woman for the Indian man is a thing so intense, bitter, inclusive and malicious that the most militant of suffragists would gasp at its frank, awful expression. The Indian man does not suspect this, unless his mother enlightens him. Even then, he does not encompass the fact that his slaves, under their awe, are his deadly critics and enemies, viewing him as a gaoler and tyrant. Most of their concern for him is concern for themselves, less worse happen if he die. The Indian girl loves her husband while he is faithful to her. All Indian men and women know how long that is. She does not "yearn for the companionship of another wife"; she generally has to be locked up in the "sulking room" to prevent the other wife being strangled or stabbed, until confinement and fasting have taken off the edge of her "patient Indian obedience, so characteristic of the Indian wife." Purdah ladies plot against the British and weave intrigues with Russia and Turkey through the vanity or ambition of their rajahs, in the fond hope that in the *melee* caused by a new power in Hind, something will happen to set Indian women free! It sounds mad; it is sane compared with most of the schemes for obtaining freedom that are floated in the harems. It is India's custom to debase her women, sell children to temples for customs unutterable, marry babies, behave to widows as to dogs, and everywhere count the female as carrion in the presence of the male. And India would at once have the franchise and be one of the "progressive nations" and kin to the West!

India's Way.

When Lord Curzon hinted to India generally that a higher regard for truth would be a factor in her advance towards civilisation, all reading India—which was mostly Bengal—rose up and yelled with pain. Every person who has lived for any length of time anywhere in India is quite aware that the one thing not to be expected from any Indian is the truth. A straight answer to a straight question is equally impossible. Honesty, too, is infrequent. The craving lust of the whole land, of all its peoples, is for wealth, by fair means or foul. Gratitude is unknown, as to most Orientals. There is a caste of beggars and a caste of thieves, and both are "honourable." India never walks by a straight road, when she can go by a crooked.

The White Woman's Sin.

India knows her thoughts and deeds towards her own women. She has lately come to believe that British women are like her own, and has revived the loathsome bazaar stories of British immorality. This is due to the white woman's sin against Britain and against Indian women. White women make love to and marry in Britain the sons of India. Nearly every such son has already a legal wife and probably children, in India. He may be the son of a syce, but he always says he is a prince, and the foolish white woman believes him. Collegian or not, directly he returns to his own land he undergoes purification from the "sin" and "filth" he has collected during his sojourn among the "sinful" and "filthy" British. He takes off his "Europe" clothes, goes into the harem, eats on the floor with his fingers, and tells his wives and chums what immoral beasts the British girls and women are. Until India has cleansed herself from her views regarding woman, every British woman with any respect for herself or pity for her Indian sisters should refuse to speak to an Indian man. An enormous and most beneficial change, socially and politically, for Britain and India would immediately begin; the British women in India would not shudder when they heard of the doings of white women with brown men.

Missionaries.

They have been left till the last because they are the least in India's needs. If ever India becomes Christian she will be Romish too, because India thinks a priest who lives virtuously has a power in his religion, and the priests are obliged to go to them in plague and cholera, whereas the missionary often runs away and has to consider his children and wife. The worst climates in India have no missionaries; they have priests. The priest goes for life, lives in a tiny house, feeds on rice and curry, and generally impresses the heathen by his life rather than his sermons. And it is not, to my mind, good for Britain to have Roman Catholic such of India as is Christian. Indian women are the great supporters of religion in India, and though they are ignorant they are not fools. Here, again, the question of India is the woman question.

"If Gamage were my partner"

HOW THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HAS BROUGHT HIM TO SUCCESS CAN HELP OUR READERS THERE.

A. W. Gamage.

NOT so many years ago the man whose picture appears on this page was the proud proprietor of a half-share in a tiny little shop in Holborn with a frontage of not more than a few feet. Now that business occupies two huge blocks of buildings, and is being added to every day. And its owner has hundreds of other interests as well.

Moreover, this wonderful success is due to his own efforts. He has had no outside "influence" to help him on the road to success. His progress has been due to one thing and one thing only, to his business knowledge, the knowledge that tells one when to buy and how to sell, when to lay down new plant and when to retrench, that shows the way out of difficulties and the best means of seizing opportunities.

What would it mean to you?

What would it not mean to you if you could have such a man with you every day in your work to help you in *your* difficulties, to show you the way to seize *your* opportunities? You must realise that it might mean just the difference between just the mediocre measure of success that attends most hard-working men and the *real* success that comes to the few. Only a few days ago Andrew Carnegie, the great millionaire, told a reporter that "merely doing your duty is not sufficient. You must work with your head, and in addition to obeying orders *work out projects of your own.*"

Now, how are you to lay those projects, if you have no past experience to help you or no substitute for it, such as you would have if only you could have a man like Gamage for your partner?

How can you have it?

Do you know that you *can* have Gamage for your partner, at least as far as the benefit of his advice is concerned? And not only Gamage, but also Sir Joseph Lyons, the famous restauranteur; and Richard Burbidge, managing director of Harrods' Stores; and S. F. Edge, the famous expert on making and selling motor cars, who started as a cycle racer; and James Murray Allison, who in six or seven years has reached the top of the tree in the advertising profession, and is now advertisement manager of *The Times*; and John Lawrie, managing director of William Whiteley Ltd., who has only this winter seen his firm open the most wonderful business premises in England, if not in the world.

And the way you can get the benefit of these men's knowledge is by getting the "Business Encyclopædia" and by referring to it whenever a business difficulty faces you. Whatever your difficulty, however hard it seems, you will be able to solve it by the advice given in the "Business Encyclopædia." For it is written by men who have solved similar difficulties themselves, including all those mentioned above, and many more besides, whose names will be sent free upon request.

Is it any wonder, then, that over 50,000 successful business men and great business firms are already using the work? Can there be any doubt that you will be better able to succeed if you also have it by your side to give you advice in your difficulties and to lend you confidence in your decisions?

A Book on Business Free.

In this column you will find a special coupon for readers of JOHN BULL, which entitles you to a free copy of an interesting book on business, that may set you on the right road to business success, just as it has set many others of your fellow readers. In itself it is of considerable value to any business man, for it contains actual facsimile specimens, showing how to draw up important legal documents, such as wills, agreements, leases, indentures, etc., etc.

But—and this is its most vital point for you—it tells you also *all* about this great "Business Encyclopædia," the work that *Modern Man* describes as "probably the most valuable work that any business man could have." It is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that confront the business man during his work.

Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in book-keeping, the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet, or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose leaf and card index systems, you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. Surely you realise the help this knowledge would mean.

It is only because 50,000 firms and business men are already using the work that we are able to offer to deliver it to any reader of JOHN BULL for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid in small monthly payments, while you are already using and benefiting by the work. But signing this coupon does not cost you anything.

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"HOW TO FIGHT GERMANY."

OUR CONTRIBUTOR'S SCHEME CRITICISED.

BY COLONEL A. KEENE.

[*In our issue of the 20th ult. we invited suggestions and criticisms on the scheme for Home Defence formulated by our contributor, and Colonel Keene now takes up that invitation.*]

It is quite clear that your contributor has devoted much thought to the study of Home Defence, and I may add that, were it possible to comply with his demands for the generous payment which he suggests, the problem of Home Defence alone would probably be solved. But I hope he will pardon me if I say that it seems to me he is like the man who could not see the wood for the trees. He has paid so much attention to Home Defence that he has entirely overlooked the larger question of National Defence. His proposals for a Home Defence Force of 500,000 men, requiring the expenditure of 30 millions a year for the pay of the *personnel* alone, would inevitably lead to the ruin of the Regular Army, and in all human probability they would result in the curtailment of expenditure on the Navy.

Before we take such risks let us examine a little closer into the matter. I think it will be admitted that National Defence should be based on, and co-ordinated with, National Policy. Lord Rosebery has recently told us that, whether for good or for evil, we are now embraced in the midst of the Continental system, and that he took it for granted that the nation approved of our foreign policy and was prepared to make the sacrifices necessary to maintain it. Our National Policy, in short, is that of standing by France and Russia and thus forming a triple *entente* to act as a counterpoise to the Triple Alliance. But in order that we may support France effectively we must keep up a highly-trained Regular Army, and, moreover, we must also be in a position to despatch the whole of it at once to the Continent on the outbreak of war.

At the same time, in order to allow the Navy to act with freedom and to be able to deal promptly and severely with any hostile force that may by chance slip through our naval guard, we require a Home Defence Force much larger than the present Territorial Force and much better trained. The force must also be trained in time of peace and ready to act the day that war begins.

The problem is how to get that force without ruining our Regular Army by the competition for recruits and without adding enormously to our present expenditure on armaments. These limitations your contributor ignores.

The National Service League has prepared definite proposals for the solution of this problem, and the better these proposals are understood the more generally are they accepted.

As to expenditure, it is true that your contributor calculates on making the enemy pay. But it is obviously implied that the fighting is to be done in this country, for our highly-paid troops are to be available for home defence only. In other words, we are to adopt a military policy that will lead to the fighting being done in this country, instead of abroad. This is a very weak point in the scheme, but a still worse one is the inference that in order to get our money back we may be tempted to go to war. The object of armaments should be to prevent war.

Then, again, I should like to point out that an indemnity can only be wrung out of a country by invading it and bringing it to its knees. That was how the Germans extorted an indemnity from France, and it was because Russia had *not* been invaded that the Japanese failed to wring an indemnity from Russia after beating them in Manchuria.

A TREBLE.

BY HORACE ECKERT.

Parents and guardians will at once see that the moral of the following is that they should not leave newspapers about when their eldest is aged nine, and fond of reading.

It began: "Dada, what's a treble?"

"Isn't it what you play on the piano with the right hand?" I asked.

"No," she said. "That is *the* treble: I want to know, what is *a* treble?"

"It's something to do with horses."

"Do they wear them?"

"Wear what?"

"Trebles."

"Oh, no."

"I though perhaps they had something to do with harness. Perhaps they eat them."

I refrained from comment. Presently, "Dada, who's Old Joe?"

"Old Joe? Oh! there's a song, a sort of dirge, about him. 'Good Old Joe' or 'Poor Old Joe,' or something. I think he died. I hope so."

"But he can't be dead; it's got his name here," she said.

I was beginning to see now what prompted these questions.

"It says here, 'Old Joe's Treble,'" she added.

"I see what you mean now," I said. "Old Joe is the name under which that gentleman writes for the newspaper."

"Is he old?"

"I really don't know."

"I expect he is, or he wouldn't say so."

"He might not be. It's just a—a sort of nickname he gives himself."

"But you haven't told me what *a* treble is yet."

"Well," I said, resigned to the worst: "Treble means three times, or three, like triple. Those three horses whose names you see there are going to run to-morrow——"

"In the street?"

"No, on a race——on the grass."

"What for?"

"For prizes, like you ran for at your school sports."

"Or the Sunday-school treat," she added. "Do horses go to Sunday-school? Will they give the horse that wins a desk?"

"Never mind about that," I said. "Some horses are going to race to-morrow, and those are the three that gentleman who calls himself Old Joe thinks will win."

"How does he know they will win?"

"He doesn't. He probably wishes he did. I said, *thinks* will win."

"What will he do if they don't?"

"Isn't it nearly time for your music lesson?" I asked.

"Miss Simpson hasn't come yet," she said. "I don't think she will be long."

I hoped not.

Silence for a few moments, during which I prayed for Miss Simpson's safe and early arrival: but the prayer miscarried.

"Dada, what is a one-horse snip?"

"A one-horse snip," I said, "is the horse which Old Joe, realising that it is just possible they might not *all* win, thinks most likely to win."

"Does it ever win?" she asked.

"I believe occasions have been known upon which it has."

"Will he be pleased if it does?"

"Yes. And probably surprised."

"He must be a clever man," she said.

"Unquestionably."

More silence.

"Dada, what's a punter?"

But a ring at the bell saved me.

"There's Miss Simpson," I said.

"Very well," said my daughter; "you can tell me what a punter is after my lesson."

"After your lesson," I said, very impressively, "it will be time for you to go to bed at once."

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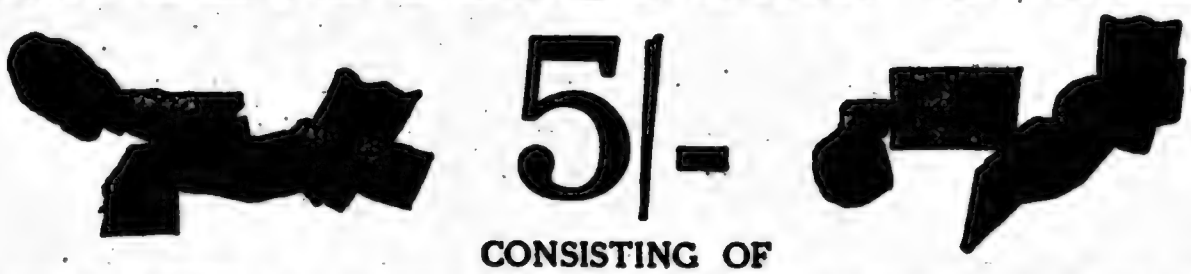

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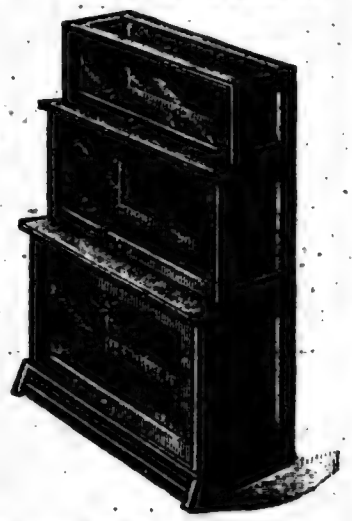

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STATE INSURANCE.

THE POSITION OF THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE POLICY OF THE LABOUR PARTY.

By T. Good.

[*Mr. Good, who is a recognised authority on the subject, continues his merciless criticism of the State Insurance Act. His previous articles have caused a great deal of stir in Government and Labour circles.*]

When first the Insurance Bill was introduced, many trade unionists, including some members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, recognised some of the flaws in the measure. But the Labour Party, as a party, accepted the main principles of the Bill. However, most of the active members of the unions were dissatisfied, alike with the Bill and the Party.

LABOUR OVERWHELMINGLY HOSTILE.

Pressure was brought to bear upon the Labour Party with a view to having the Bill opposed. As an instance of the real feeling of organised labour, it may be mentioned that at a special conference of delegates held at Bradford the Bill was condemned by 200 votes to 20. The Labour Members, for reasons I will not here discuss, did their best to persuade the unions to support them in their attitude towards the measure. The effort did not meet with success, and the Joint Board, representing the Trades Union Congress, the Trades Federation, and the Labour Party, in a special report was constrained to say that there was "a fear" that the trade unions might be "unable to quality as approved societies"; that their position might "depreciate"; that "the effect of the Bill on wages might be prejudicial"; that the "whole burden" might fall "upon the back of the unorganised worker"; and that "the financial provisions of the Bill might prejudice the fighting effectiveness of trade unions." That report, issued in May, was signed by Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, by Mr. Arthur Henderson and others.

That the fears expressed in that report were well grounded was made abundantly clear when, a month later, Mr. Lloyd George himself was at special pains to point out to a deputation of employers that his scheme was "framed specially to protect the employers." Then the whisper went round that the scheme would "draw the teeth of the trade unions."

FRAMED IN THE INTERESTS OF EMPLOYERS.

Here, then, we had it from Labour leaders that the Insurance scheme was bad from a trade union point o view; we had it from the author of the scheme that it was framed in the interests of the employers; and we had the word passed quietly round that it would draw the teeth of the unions. From this, and much more evidence that could be quoted if necessary, it seems that the clear duty of the Labour Party was to oppose the Bill. From the rank and file protests against the measure came thicker and faster. The Labour Party began to feel uncomfortable. Several Members paid special visits to their constituencies and endeavoured to suppress the revolt. They failed. In the words of the Labour Correspondent of *The Times*, they found "a growing volume of hostility to the measure amongst their trade union supporters." The pressure from the intelligent portion of the rank and file became so great that the Party almost screwed its courage up to the point of opposing the Bill. JOHN BULL's articles were evidently touching the spot. Mr. Macdonald, the leader of the Labour Party in the House—who, in his own words, claimed that "no one, with perhaps the single exception of Mr. Lloyd George himself, had fought more strenuously than he had for this Bill"—wrote in the *Leicester Pioneer*, at the beginning of July, as follows:—

RAMSAY MACDONALD'S OPINION.

> The more one goes into the details of this Bill, the more one discovers how inadequately it has been thought out. It was, therefore, with amazement that we heard last Thursday that it was going to be pushed through under the guillotine. . . . It is unfair. . . . When we objected we were met with the story that unless the guillotine was put on we should lose the Bill. The reply to that is a perfectly obvious one. The Bill must not be pushed through without proper examination. Every expert committee that examines it is finding blemishes in it, and if the Government's position is: "You must accept our Bill with all its blemishes or nothing at all," our reply can be given without the least hesitation: "We shall not accept your Bill."

About a fortnight later Mr. Macdonald repeated, in an interview published in the *Westminster Gazette*, the threat that, unless the Bill were fairly amended, the Labour Party would "vote against it on the third reading."

By that time the Conservative Opposition were being made aware of their error in originally supporting the Bill, and some Liberals, and at least one member of the Cabinet, had come to realise that the measure was not popular. It was then in the power of the Labour Party to kill this Bill which was specially "framed to protect employers," this Bill which might "depreciate" the position of organised labour, this Bill which might have a "prejudicial" effect on wages, this Bill which might "prejudice the fighting effectiveness of the trade unions," this Bill which would "draw the teeth of the unions."

THE LABOUR PARTY'S OPPORTUNITY.

It was then in the power of the Labour Party to save the working classes from the social and industrial servitude, conscription, tyranny and inquisition of the Lloyd George Insurance scheme. The supreme opportunity had arrived. Let us quote the Labour Correspondent of *The Times*, July 24th:—

> There is good reason to believe that the fate of the National Insurance Bill now hangs in the balance, and persistence in the position now taken up by the Labour Party will almost certainly result in its withdrawal within the next few days.

Here the Labour Party had a clear duty. Here the Labour Party had the power and the opportunity to perform its duty. What did the Labour Party *do?* See what happened. The Lloyd George section of the Cabinet, still hugging its delusion that the Insurance scheme was a vote-catcher, set up Mr. Churchill to give out a hint that if the Labour Party did not consistently support the Liberal Party in the House of Commons, Liberal candidates would be run in Labour constituencies. I will not say that the Labour Party is afraid of the Liberal Party. I will not suggest that the Labour Party has so far lost the confidence of the trade unions on whose backs it rode into Parliament that it is now entirely dependent upon the lawyers, journalists and capitalists who constitute the Liberal Party. I will not hint that the majority of the members of the Labour Party have an eye on the well-paid jobs in the giving of the Government. But I must recall and record the fact that the threatened revolt of the Labour Party against the Insurance Bill was followed by the Churchill threat of Liberal opposition to Labour Members in the constituencies, and that the Churchill threat was followed by the abject and unconditional surrender of the Labour Party.

MACDONALD'S SURRENDER.

Early in October Mr. Macdonald publicly issued this statement:—

> When the House meets, the Labour Party, as a party, will adopt the Insurance Bill, and all my influence will be thrown on that scale.

That, in the words of *Justice*, was "the crowning piece of treason to the working class—the grossest act of betrayal of which even that party has been guilty."

To their credit it must be recorded that six members of the Labour Party—Messrs. Hardie, Snowden, Thorne, Lansbury, Jowett and O'Grady—refused to support the third reading of the Bill; but the Party, as a party, to its everlasting disgrace, supported the measure. This Bill, calculated to protect employers and draw the teeth of trade unions—this Bill, designed to place the workers at the absolute mercy, not only of employers but of stiff-necked State officials—is now an Act by the consent and support of the Labour Party. Both Lords and Commons, encouraged and aided by the Labour Party, have chosen to impose this scheme upon the nation without the shadow of a mandate or popular demand for it. But, in the words of the late W. E. Gladstone, "There is a higher authority than the House of Lords; there is a higher authority than the House of Commons; *there is the authority of the nation.*" Will the nation stand it?

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This Company, the prospectus of which has been published, is incorporated in the Transvaal under the Transvaal Companies Act, 1909, with a capital of £250,000, divided into 247,500 Seven Per Cent. Preferred Ordinary shares of £1 each, which after payment of a non-Cumulative dividend at a similar rate on the Deferred Ordinary, are entitled to one-half of the remaining profits, there being 50,000 Deferred Ordinary shares of 1s. each. The present issue is one of 100,000 Seven Per Cent. Preferred Ordinary shares. The Union Steel Corporation (of South Africa), Limited, has been formed for the purpose of establishing Iron and Steel Works and Rolling Mills in the Transvaal with a view to manufacturing drill and bar steel, iron and steel forgings and castings, etc., for which there has been, for many years, a large and increasing demand in South Africa. The Government of the Union of South Africa have entered into an agreement with Mr. Henry Horace Wright (transferred to the Corporation by the contracts hereinafter mentioned), whereby the Corporation acquire the preferential right to purchase iron and steel scrap from the Government Railways and Shops for sixteen years, at £1 per ton, for the whole of the Transvaal, and a large district south of it, and at satisfactory prices for the remainder of South Africa. The Government have also agreed during the same period to increase the Railway Rates on exported scrap and to grant the Corporation a reduced rate for transport of their scrap to the Corporation's Works, and also to place their orders for such iron and steel goods as the Corporation produce, with the Corporation. It will be understood that the Company has exceptional privileges from the Government of the Union of South Africa, who also reserve the right to nominate a director on the Board. Imports of manufactured iron and steel, exclusive of machinery, in British South Africa, during the year 1910, were of the value of £1,515,494, and the Directors anticipate that the finished goods manufactured by the Corporation will find a ready sale. A suitable site for the work has been secured at Vereeniging, which is within 30 miles of the principal goldfields and other industries of South Africa, on the main line from Cape Town to Johannesburg, and in direct railway communication with all the centres of industry in the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Rhodesia, and Lourenço Marques. Mr. Henry Wright, one of the Johannesburg directors, has had many years practical experience in Sheffield and in South Africa, and has an extensive connection in mining, trade, and industrial circles. Messrs. Robert Hammond and Son, of 64, Victoria Street, Westminster, and Messrs. R. Heber Radford, Son and Squire, Consulting Engineers, have reported most favourably on the undertaking which they say could be carried on with excellent prospects of success. The necessary coal is obtained from collieries adjoining the site of the proposed works, and the price is lower than prices paid in metallurgical districts in Great Britain. In fact, they are of opinion that steel works in the Transvaal selling their products at present prices, would be in a position to earn profits even greater than those earned by English and foreign steel makers in South African markets. The Board is a highly influential one of a thorough business character, and consists of in London Messrs. James Patchett, J.P., Isaac Lewis, Frederick Siemens, J. Stanley Watson, J.P., Henry Arthur Herbert, and in Johannesburg of Senator Samuel Marks and Mr. Henry Horace Wright.

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To Capital Paid up, viz.:—£12 10s. 0d. per Share on 319,139 Shares of £60 each				3,989,237	10	0
,, Reserve Fund				3,390,313	15	0
,, Dividend payable on 1st February, 1912				359,031	7	6
,, Balance of Profit and Loss Account				122,593	18	8
				7,861,575	11	2
,, Current, Deposit and other Accounts				77,707,785	9	8
,, Acceptances on account of Customers				6,037,093	16	6
				£91,606,454	17	4

Cr. ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash and Bullion in hand and Cash at Bank of England	13,690,684	16	2			
,, Money at Call and at Short Notice	9,806,744	2	0			
				23,497,428	18	2
,, Investments:—						
Consols and other British Government Securities	3,646,272	13	8			
,, Stocks Guaranteed by British Government Indian and British Railway Debenture and Preference Stocks, British Corporation Stocks, Colonial and Foreign Government Stocks, etc.	5,110,970	18	4			
				8,757,243	12	0
,, Bills of Exchange				7,883,356	12	4
				40,138,029	2	6
,, Advances on Current Accounts, Loans on Security and other Accounts				43,434,768	13	1
,, Liabilities of Customers for Acceptances as per contra				6,037,093	16	6
,, Bank Premises at Head Office and Branches				1,996,563	6	3
				£91,606,454	17	4

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REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

In accordance with the provisions of Sub-section 2 of Section 113 of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, we report as follows:—

We have examined the above Balance Sheet in detail with the books at Head Office and with the certified Returns from the Branches. We have satisfied ourselves as to the correctness of the Cash Balances and the Bills of Exchange and have verified the correctness of the Money at Call and Short Notice. We have also verified the Securities representing the Investments of the Bank, and having obtained all the information and explanations we have required, we are of opinion that such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, Home Secretary, Whitehall.

DEAR MCKENNA,—When Parliament meets I trust you will be given an opportunity to explain your attitude in regard to the man, George Baker, wrongly convicted by the Uckfield magistrates for trespassing in pursuit of game, and sentenced to six weeks' hard labour. My recollection of some previous decisions of the Uckfield justices does not prepossess me in their favour, in the absence of information as to how the identity of Baker was in the first instance established to their satisfaction. I take up the case, however, at the point where two other men, named Hall and Pagden, confessed, two days after the trial, to the offence for which Baker was convicted. The next day, Christmas Eve, the confessions were sent by train to the Home Office. On Wednesday the Chairman of the Bench and a colleague came to London, and had an interview with one of your officials. Then came a request to the magistrates' clerk for his notes of the proceedings. Having sent for these notes, however, the official apparently considered that he had done all that was required of him, packed his bag, and departed on leave.

At any rate, dear McKenna, though this man Baker had been sentenced to six weeks' hard labour on December 21st, and though on the 27th the Home Office was aware that he was presumably innocent, he was still in prison on January 18th, when Hall and Pagden were sentenced by the Uckfield magistrates for the very offence of which they had previously convicted Baker. To be precise, he was kept in prison until the 20th, when you apparently woke up and signed an order for his release. What were you doing in the case between December 24th and January 20th? When was the case put before you, and in what form? At what stage were the magistrates informed, as I am told they were, that you could not see your way to interfere with the original sentence?

I perceive in all the circumstances of this case the gravest reason to believe that an innocent man was allowed by the Home Office, of which you are the responsible head, to remain in prison, doing hard labour, through neglect, indifference, or blundering, and if this be so you cannot escape responsibility. What compensation is it proposed to give the man? See to it, my dear McKenna.

JOHN BULL.

To His Grace the Duke of Devonshire.

YOUR GRACE,—Your position as Mayor of Chesterfield may enable you to enlighten me and the parents of the five children who were roasted alive at the picture palace as to the manner in which the Coroner's inquest on the victims was conducted.

It was your duty and the Corporation's duty to show that you were not responsible for the calamity, but the question of negligence to take proper precautions was apparently never investigated. The jury returned a verdict exonerating the management, and added a rider suggesting that legislation should be enacted prohibiting the use of inflammable material in stage productions. This "burking" of the real question reveals the fact that in spite of repeated warnings, the regulations enforced in other cities and towns were not adopted. How little regard your Corporation and officials had for the safety of the public is revealed in the evidence of your Borough Surveyor, who said: "The Corporation had never been consulted by the theatre company as to using this building adjoining the theatre, nor did he know that they were so using it until after the disaster." Apparently anyone can do anything in Chesterfield, and an accommodating coroner's jury will see to it that they do not suffer.

Even a duke has no right to take the responsibility of being civic head of any town or city unless he does his duty to its citizens. It is a case in which the Home Office should make a thorough enquiry.

JOHN BULL.

P. G. Beavan, Labourer, Llwynfilly Farm, Moestorglwyd, Wales.

Congratulations on hearing you have been left 100,000 dollars by somebody in America, and hope you will get it. Had anything on account? BULL.

To the Lord Mayor, Dublin, Erin.

ME DEAR LORRD MAYOR,—Since I wrote ye that laste letther I see ye've had another meethin' iv y'r august Corporation wid riference to th' salarey iv th' Lord Mayor, an' that th' mimbers didn't kick up such a divil iv a din neether. An' so it's all sittled an' done wid, an' the Lord Mayor iv th' future is to have nothin' at all at all, barrin' £262 f'r sicretharial expinses. Whin I say it is all sittled an' done wid, me dear Lord Mayor, of courrse I mane till the Corporation iv y'r cithy sthand on their hids an' change their moinds agin; f'r firrst th' salarey was £3,688, an' thin there was a tirrible row an' y'r lerrdship was cut down in th' prime iv loife to £2,000, an' justh as th' next man on th' listh seemed likely to come into £1,688 up comes an economist wid a risolution that he should have nothin' excipt throuble an' honour an' abusive obsarvations. Don't ye think the Corporation had better invite Gineral Carrson, iv Belfast, to take th' chain whin ye've done wid it, if on'y f'r th' sake iv th' union iv hearts? To all th' bhoys wance agin.

JOHN BULL.

To Robert Gordon Barker, H.M. Prison, Ipswich.

DEAR SIR,—Possibly they will not let you have this letter for some weeks; I do not know the exact rule. I am, however, very anxious to write and tell you that the sacrifice you have made on behalf of your brother reflects the highest credit upon you. "Greater love hath no man than this," it is written, "that a man lay down his life for his friends." You have not done this, but you have laid down your liberty and borne the yoke of your brother's punishment. I have read of such things in novels, but in real life they are rare indeed.

The circumstances are extraordinary. The indictment against you at the Suffolk Assizes was that of setting fire to a cottage. From the first suspicion was directed against your brother, and I believe the police were about to arrest him when you "confessed" that you alone were guilty. That was untrue, Robert Gordon, as you have admitted since, but I shall leave the casuists to decide its validity in the sphere of morals, and to determine your prospects in the Great Beyond. At the Assizes the police gave you a high character as a hard-working man, whilst one of the witnesses made it abundantly clear that you could not possibly have committed the crime, but in spite of the suggestion of Mr. Justice Channell, one of the kindliest and fairest of the King's judges, you declined to withdraw your plea of Guilty. You knew that if you withdrew your plea the jury would have found you Not Guilty, and the way would have been open for the police to put your brother in your place. You were sentenced to eight months' imprisonment with hard labour, and your brother will, presumably, not now be put upon his trial.

I trust that you will be released before the expiry of your sentence, for when all is said, "justice" is not done by your imprisonment. It never can be done while the innocent is punished—and I shall certainly take steps to bring the facts to the notice of the King's advisers.

JOHN BULL.

To the Mayor and Borough Surveyor, Poplar, London.

GENTLEMEN,—I perceive that by the grace of the Poplar Borough Council a motor car has been purchased, at a cost of £340, for your joint use. You will please understand, however, that you will be expected to give the members occasional rides, that you must not take the car abroad, and that you must not use it on Sundays and holidays. The car is strictly for business and official purposes—as, for instance, when your worship goes out to dinner, or the surveyor has to inspect the drains. Be good enough to understand, further, that you pay your own insurance premiums and indemnify the ratepayers against a blow up, a breakdown, fines and damages. Drive carefully, keep your eyes on the measured mile, and above all sit up—remembering that many an honest heart beats in a motor-car somebody else has paid for.

JOHN BULL.

Duke of Connaught, Ottawa, Canada.

Suppose you are quite glad get out of New York. Natives very rude, but they cannot help it. BULL.

"And this is how the game is played! You pay your money and you take your choice."

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

There is no relief yet from the lock-up of money by the Treasury, much to the disadvantage of Stock Exchange and other business, public deposits having now reached the appalling sum of 19½ millions, but the payment to the *National Telephone Company* this week should usher in a further release of funds. Quite a chorus of chairmen at the various Bank meetings have urged the rehabilitation of *Consols*. Will anything be done now? The stock markets are mostly dull, with the exception of *Marconi, Shipping* and *Omnibus shares*. The latter have moved somewhat wildly, owing to opposition to the fusion, but it is positively stated that the consent of the majority of shareholders has been obtained. *Inkran Cotton Estates* have now advanced to 1s. 6d., with large business doing. I note with satisfaction that *West India* and *Panama shares*, which I recommended six months ago at 3 (in anticipation of the opening of the Panama Canal), have now touched 5½, also that *Tirucalli Rubber Concessions* have taken a jump to 1⅛. I hope my readers have acted on my advice to help themselves some of these.

Home Rails Benefiting from the Dividends—Good Opportunities for Investors.

Home Rails are benefiting from the dividend announcements, but their real rise has still to come, and as soon as the coal labour questions have been settled I look for a decided upward swing in quotations. The dividends so far declared make a satisfactory showing, apart from those of the *South Western* and *Great Eastern*, and in their cases special circumstances have prevailed. The *Brighton, Great Central* and *Metropolitan District* have, so far, carried off the honours, but the annexed table tells its own tale:—

	Second Half 1910. Dividend Rate p.c. per ann.	Second Half 1910. Carry Forward. £	Second Half, 1911. Dividend Rate p.c. per ann.	Second Half, 1911. Carry Forward. £
Great Eastern	4½	100,000	4½	112,000
Metropolitan Cons.	1½	9,500	1½	9,200
Brighton	7	38,200	8	38,500
Do. "A"	4½ (a)		5½ (a)	
Chatham 1st Pref.	4½	71,507	4½	87,058
Metropolitan District	4 (b)	2,020	4 (b)	2,000
,, ,, ...	3½ (c)		4½ (c)	
			2 (d)	
Central London	3	33,645	2	26,152
South Western	8½	35,142	8	35,288
,, ,, ...	2 5/32 (a)		2 (a)	
North Eastern	7	103,914	7	121,000
Great Northern	2½ (a)	85,163	2½ (a)	127,701
Great Central	2 (c)	8,500	1 (a, f)	10,000
South Eastern Dover) "A" ..	1 (a)	10,861	2 (a)	

(a) For year. (b) On 4 per cent. Guar. (c) On 4½ per cent. 1st pref. (d) On 2nd pref. (e) On 4 per cent. pref. of 1891. (f) On 5 per cent. pref. of 1894.

The dividends of the remaining "heavy" lines are still to be declared, and even if the boards of these companies adopt a very conservative course the yields should be quite satisfactory, and returns of from 4¾ to 5¼ are not to be despised. For those investors who prefer the cheaper stocks an excellent little trust could be made up of, say, *Great Northern Deferred at* 55¾, *South Western Deferred at* 45½, *Chatham Second Prefs.* at 70, *Metropolitan District Second Preference* at 77, and *Great Central* 1894 *Preference* at 65.

An Investment through the Post Office Savings Bank.

A reader of John Bull communicates a very sad experience which he has had in connection with an investment made through the Post Office Savings Bank. He says:—

> To obtain a good start in life I went abroad some fifteen years ago, and by sheer hard work sent home approximately £500, instructing my nearest relative—I being entirely ignorant of anything relating to shares—to invest through the P.O., through power of attorney, each small sum as it was earned. My only stipulation was that such investment should be sound, irrespective of the rate of interest. The first purchases were made, and I think by recommendation of the G.P.O., in Local Loans 3 per cent. at 114, the remainder at a slightly reduced figure. I was naturally buoyed with hope when I understood that in 1912 the Government were going to redeem them at par. On application, however, I find the protecting clause "or when the Government may decide." It would have been almost better had I put my small savings in a stocking under the floor. I ought to have put them in a respectable 4 per cent. debenture security.

My correspondent has indeed had an unfortunate experience, as *Local Loans* have fallen from 114 to 89¾, a fall of 25 points, and what he says is quite correct—there is very little chance of the Government taking steps to redeem *Local Loans* at par at present. He might, however, have done even worse through the P.O. Savings Bank if he had invested his savings in *Consols*, which in 1896-7 also stood at 114, and are now quoted only 77, so that the loss would have been 37 points instead of 25. Had my correspondent invested in sound industrial or other debentures, carefully selected, he would not have any capital loss at all to deplore, and would have had higher interest all the time. It certainly is time that something should be done in regard to national credit, and especially about the placing of such Government stocks on a sounder basis, by improving the terms of redemption. When will the Treasury officals find time to devote a little attention to this really urgent matter?

Opportunities in Maikop Oil Shares, but Patience Necessary—Brigit Trinidad Prospects.

My readers are well aware of my predilection for the leading oil shares, and for certain *Maikop* companies in particular, but I think it only right to point out that patience is still necessary, and that purchasers of such shares must be prepared to wait some time yet for tangible results. That these will be of the most satisfactory character I have no doubt. Investors will, in the meantime, find it wisest to stick to the producing companies, and while I have nothing to say against shares like *Shell Transports*, at about 83s., I think that it would be as well to confine attention to shares which are still at a very low level. In the first place, there are *Black Sea* preferred at 1, cum. 7 per cent. dividend just declared, and the ordinary shares at ⅛, on which dividends may also be expected in the near future, while the profits of the company are largely increasing. Then, again, *Maikop Victorys* at ⅛ discount look very attractive. This company's production is rapidly increasing again, the output for the first four days of the past week having been:—January 22nd, 7,500 poods; January 23th, 8,450 poods; January 24th, 9,275 poods. Some of my readers who recently bought Black Sea Oilfields at ⅝-¾ and Maikop Victory at ⅛ discount already stand on velvet. *Anglo-Maikops* at ¾ are also worth attention, this corporation having, thanks to its able managing director, Mr. George Tweedy, a finger in the pie of all the principal Maikop Oil companies. They have just undertaken the management of the *Maikop Premier*, a step which I have been urging upon the directors of the latter for some time. *Egyptian Oil Trusts* are up at 3⅜, and *Premier Oil and Pipe-line* are changing hands in large numbers at 19s. to 19s. 3d.

And now a word on *Trinidad*. There is no doubt that this island, which has a very large oilfield, will become very important, from the point of view of the supply of oil for fuel, to the numerous steamers which will doubtless call in there to replenish their supply, especially after the Panama Canal has been opened. It is no secret that the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa have paid £10,000 for an option over the properties of the *Central Trinidad Oil Company*, which expires on March 31st. Should they exercise it, they are expected also to acquire the various other companies which have so far been formed.

The South African Market—Kaffirs Rallying—Rhodesians now with a Clear Outlook—Amalgamated Props. Meeting.

The Kaffir Circus, although relieved from the incubus of the East Rand Proprietary trouble, is still unsettled and raided by "bears," but as soon as the Paris settlement is over prospects will doubtless be brighter. It is satisfactory to find that most of the South African groups, such as the Wernher Beit, Barnato, Neumann, and Goerz coteries, have decided, in deference to the wish of shareholders, to issue reports and balance-sheets for a considerable period before the Johannesburg meetings take place, so that the European shareholders should have an opportunity of forming judgment before giving their proxies. The Lewis and Marks group have gone one better in deciding to hold the meetings in future in London. The Rhodesian market has again been disturbed by the Amalgamated Props. meeting on Thursday, which, however, passed off much better than had been anticipated. Mr. G. R. Bonnard, who presided, certainly was instrumental in infusing quite a new spirit into the meeting, and by his frank and tactful conduct of proceedings undoubtedly induced those present to pass the directors' report. In the result three of the obnoxious contracts are cancelled, one is subject to reports from the other side, and only one is in dispute with Sir Abe Bailey, who I think is very ill-advised in contesting the same. The company has losses to retrieve, but it must not be forgotten that the properties which have caused the losses are still in possession of the company, and there is little doubt that as soon as markets rally they will be recovered again. The company, moreover, owns 1½ million acres of land in Rhodesia which will eventually become very valuable. *Rhodesia Ex.* declined to 1¾, on the accounts of stale "bulls" being closed. The dealings will in future be in the new shares, and a very important rally may be expected. Jungles are weak, and Barriers have also been depressed, while Copper shares are lower on a relapse in New York.

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.

At Friday's meeting of shareholders of the London City and Midland Bank, Limited, the Chairman, Sir E. H. Holden, was able to discuss a most favourable position of this great institution. The business is steadily on the increase, current deposits and other accounts being higher by about £4,300,000 than at the close of the previous year. Cash in hand and at the Bank of England amounts to £13,690,000, an increase of £358,000, and the profits have enabled a dividend of 18 per cent. to be declared, while £50,000 was provided to premises account and pension fund, and the carry-forward increased by £20,000. Sir Edward discussed in detail the continued depreciation in Consols, and suggested that they should be exempted from income tax, with a view to improving their position, and it is indeed to be hoped that something will be done soon by those who are responsible for the national credit.

NEW ISSUE.

THE UNION STEEL CORPORATION (OF SOUTH AFRICA), LIMITED.

This is a very interesting new company, as it proposes to establish iron and steel works and rolling mills in the Transvaal, and there to manufacture all manner of steel, iron, etc., forgings, castings, etc., and to supply the large and increasing demand in South Africa. The Corporation has important privileges from the Government of the Union of South Africa, and starts, therefore, under very favourable auspices on a very convenient site at Vereeniging, while the directors are leading men thoroughly conversant with the business. The consulting engineers are of opinion that even larger profits will be earned than those by English and foreign steel makers in South African markets. The capital is £250,000 in Preferred Ordinary and Deferred shares, and 100,000 Seven Per Cent. Preferred Ordinary are now issued.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) *Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor,* JOHN BULL, *2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

(2) *Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.*

(3) *Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.*

(4) *In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.*

(5) *If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.*

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

WILL.—BISMARK.—Your only plan is to make a personal application, or depute someone to do this for you, to search at Somerset House for the will. You will, of course, have to pay a fee.

GILT-EDGED INVESTMENT.—X. Y. Z.—London County Council stock is a sound investment, and the yield of the Three per Cents. is £3 11s. 6d per annum. You could also obtain with equal safety a better yield in some of the Australian Government stocks—Western Australian 3½ per cent. at 95½ would return £3 13s. 9d. per cent. What you require has been forwarded.

SMALL SPECULATION.—B. W. (Aberystwyth).—I really cannot advise you, with your slender means, to speculate in these shares. It might lead you into worse trouble than you have already, nor would any stockbroker open them on your terms. I regret I cannot help you.

SOUTH AFRICANS, ETC.—NORYNO.—The South Africans, Nos. 1, 4 and 6, should be held for a recovery when this market generally goes better. The same applies to Eastmans (2), which is benefiting from the meat industry developments in South America. When you see a profit on the rubber shares (5), take it. I do not advise holding the motor cab shares, Nos. 3 and 7, longer than you can help. The same applies to the Cornish tin shares, No. 8.

VARIOUS HOLDINGS.—M. A. D. (Dublin).—The various railway and industrial stocks mentioned are all good of their kind, but none of them is of the gilt-edged order. The latter designation applies only to Consols and kindred securities, including Colonial Government bonds and Railway Prior Charges.

BIRKBECK BANK.—R. E.—Such rumours must be received with considerable caution, and, in any case, the Official Receiver is the only person to whom you can apply for the information in question.

QUOTATIONS.—MIND-THE-STEP.—Duff Developments are quoted at 14s. As regards "Manaos," which issue do you mean? There are several. The papers do not give such quotations regularly, as they only come into the dealings by fits and starts.

OBSCURE INDUSTRIAL.—MORRIS.—I cannot advise purchase of shares in the Railway and Works Company, and there is no market for them.

IRISH CO.—J. J. B.—I do not see how I can help you in the matter. The majority can do as they please. If you feel aggrieved your best course is to place the matter in the hands of a sharp solicitor who makes a speciality of dealing with limited companies.

STOCKBROKERS' ACCOUNT.—TOPSY.—There is only one firm of Ellis and Company belonging to the Stock Exchange, and their office is at 1, Cornhill, E.C. It is a high-class firm, doing a very large business, and good for any amount. As regards the other firm of the same name, it must be "outside," and the very fact that it adopts the same name as this respectable firm looks suspicious. You had better employ a solicitor to recover the money.

FOREIGN LOTTERIES.—LOT.—You must be aware that lotteries are illegal in this country, and I cannot, therefore, assist you by recommending intermediaries who sell the tickets. I can, however, give you the address of a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London who deal in Premium Bonds. SR. NKIRAM.—Same reply. With regard to the Hamburg Lottery, that is well conducted, under proper supervision, but I cannot take any responsibility with regard to the safety of the intermediaries in the matter. JIM (Chancery Lane).—The lottery is quite genuine, but I cannot tell you anything with regard to the standing of the agents who have written to you, although apparently they are respectable. I. D.—For the reasons above stated I cannot help you to purchase French Lottery tickets

BUILDING SOCIETY.—IGNORANCE.—No, I do not advise depositing money with Building Societies. These have suffered considerably through the new land legislation, and you will do well to either leave the money in the Post Office Savings Bank, or else invest it in a sound security. You can obtain 3¾ per cent. in thoroughly safe Colonial Government bonds. I can recommend you a stockbroker through whom to buy, if the amount is large enough.

DIAMOND PROPRIETARY MINES.—F. B. (Billingborough).—This is a very promising diamond mine, already producing, and the circular which I send you will give you further information. Owing to the special settlement, they are just now rather cheaper, and it is, therefore, an opportunity for buying.

GOLDEN HOPE RUBBER.—"B." (Glasgow).—Golden Hope Rubber is a good company, and if you buy these you had better do so through a stockbroker, member of the Stock Exchange.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—W. W. W.—The statement you make is somewhat involved, and you ought not to have given the order without making the clearest stipulation, but you evidently have already consulted your solicitor, and he tells you that you are right, but very likely these outsiders will not go to law in the matter. In future do not deal with outside brokers, but only with members of the Stock Exchange. GRAMO.—(1) I do not recommend the connection. (2) They are not in existence now, but I am writing you with regard to the matter.

CART DESTROYED BY FIRE.—ELISON.—I certainly think that you have a claim against these people, as they were in charge of the vehicle and goods, and should, therefore, be responsible.

CERTIFICATE.—J. F. ROADSTER.—You have got this as a free share, which has at present no value, but it may in the course of the year be worth something. M. H.—The concern is provided with sufficient capital, but the bonds are disappointing, and I do not advise the investment.

INDUSTRIALS.—OKATUS.—In investing in industrials of this class you have to take considerable risks. The stocks mentioned would be suitable for the purpose, with the exception of Nos. 12, 19, and 23, which might be left out. I am also rather doubtful about No. 10. In the case of Brewery Companies like No. 24, the probability of drastic capital reduction, sooner or later, must be borne in mind.

TINS, ETC.—BRIGG.—Matters in the oil share market look brighter, and both the shares mentioned should be held. No fresh information is yet available as regards the tin mines, but new capital arrangements are now being made which should have a considerable bearing on its future.

MARCONIS.—MARCONI.—Such statements are not worth the paper they are written on, and especially as they come from such an obscure quarter. Such attacks are often made for the purposes of blackmail. In my opinion the shares are high enough, however, and you should take your substantial profit.

£400 INVESTMENT.—G. W.—The securities in question cannot be called absolutely safe, and this remark certainly applies to the Industrial Prefs. (1). They, however, are a fair investment. It is better to deal direct through a stockbroker.

£1,000 INVESTMENT.—SANTA.—(1) The following selection of securities should suit you:—Japanese Sterling 4 per cent. loan at 88; Chilian 1889 4½ per cent. Gold loan at 98; Great Central 1879 5 per cent. Preference at 113; Rhodesian Railways 5 per cent. First Mort. Debs. at 104½; Antofagasta Railway 5 per cent. Cum. Preference at 109; Vickers 5 per cent. Third Debs. at 106. (3) This has been done. (3) A fair industrial investment, but you might take an opportunity to reduce your holding to a moderate extent.

NITRATES; OILS.—W. L.—It is difficult to advise with regard to these two shares, on which there is such a heavy depreciation. According to all appearances, however, they cannot go much lower now, while there is a fair prospect of improvement in the course of the current year. You might, therefore, hang on a little longer.

THREE SYNDICATES.—CAUTIOUS.—Very little information is available with regard to any of these concerns, and I should advise great caution in dealing with them.

RUBBERS.—W. D. T.—This concern is still in existence, but I am afraid it must be classed amongst the doubtful companies, and there is now no market in the shares.—E. W. R.—I do not like the African Amalgamated Lands or its entourage. In future, do not buy shares through such outside brokers, who have their own axes to grind. There is no market for the shares, and you will be throwing good money after bad by endeavouring to get these people to take the shares back from you. PAISANO.—Circumstances have been against this Company, but I understand that matters are improving again, and you should not sell now. The shares are quoted at something under 2s.

LOCAL LOANS.—JEWS.—Your experience is something like that of many. Local Loans stock ranks amongst the indirect obligations of the Government, and the sums raised under this head are devoted to advances to the Public Works Loans Commissioners and others who borrow from the Government. The stock is redeemable on and after April 1, 1912, but only at the option of the Government. It should be worth while now holding for an improvement. C. R. H. L.—I have not much faith in any Home Government security under present conditions, but Local Loans can hardly go much lower now, and there is always the chance of an improvement. Better hold for the present.

£2,000 INVESTMENT.—BATH BRICK.—(1) The following selection should suit you:—Great Eastern, dividend 3½ per cent. for year, price 68; Underground Electric Income bonds, last dividend 1½ per cent., possible dividend 3 to 4 per cent., quotation 85; London City and Midland Bank, dividend 18 per cent, quotation 46½; Western Canada Land 5 per cent. Debentures, at 103; British Steamship Investment Trust 5 per cent. Preferred, at 113. The average yield will thus work out to what you require—viz., about 5 per cent. per annum. (2) This has been attended to. (3) Yes, you might add Barclay's Bank and North-Eastern Consols to the above list. (4 and 5) These questions are answered in the above.

OILS.—N. E. R.—No recent information is available with regard to the Anglo-Cuban Oil, Bitumen and Asphelt Co. Perhaps those in control will take the hint for your benefit and that of the numerous other shareholders who have been asking for information upon the present position and prospects of the concern. W. G. F.—Hold these oil shares, but do not average for the present, at any rate until the market has taken a steady turn for the better.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. S. (Beckenham).—As you signed the proposal form, we do not advise proceedings. PRO BONO PUBLICO (Inverness).—We do not think they could, but the sum is too trivial for legal proceedings. M. H. (Kingston-on-Thames).—We fear you are helpless. A. J. G. (Wimbledon).—Ditto. H. W. (Staleybridge).—You could recover Prudential premiums by suing in the County Court and proving the facts. R. G. (Tredegar).—Get the Company to endorse the policy in your favour. J. W. (Salisbury).—You have no remedy. ONE IN DOUBT (Birkenhead).—Write to the head office to endorse the policy to you. J. W. D. (Peterboro').—You should sue the Company in the County Court and prove the facts.

W J. H. (Weston-super-Mare).—Ditto. G. M. (Felixstowe).—The policy is legal, but improvident. A. E. P. (Rye).—Your mother could recover the premiums by suing. Consult a local solicitor. A. J. A. (Colliers Wood).—The policies are probably illegal. E. H. (Rotherham).—If your aunt did not sign you could recover. A. M. (Henley).—You have had the policies endorsed and you do not appear to have any grievance. E. J. P. (Stoke-on-Trent).—If there was fraud the premiums are recoverable. J. N. M. S. (Canonbury).—You are one of the many victims. W. P. (Camberwell).—The question is being decided in the High Court. Write again later. A. E. M. (Newport).—You could get your money back. Consult a good local solicitor. J. O. (Bo'ness).—You have no remedy. Avoid such societies. J. H. S. (London).—This class of policy often proves worse than thriftless. Drop them. A. C. (Aldgate).—The policies are legal, but thriftless. Drop them. Missus (West Ham).—If the proposal forms were properly signed the policies are legal for what they are worth. Invalid (Liverpool).—You could send the letter. If the proposal form was signed, do not sue. A. H. (Balham).—The chances are that you will get paid. W. B. (Manchester).—Without clearer particulars it is impossible to help you. X. Y. Z. (Apsley Guise).—If your friends did not sign, the premiums are recoverable. A. B. (Grimsby).—If the agent signed the proposal form, sue in the County Court, and consult a smart local solicitor. D. T. (Birmingham).—If your sister signed you must put up with it. E. P. (Cardiff).—Please repeat particulars. J. H. M. (Stamford).—A harsh bargain, but irrevocable. A Troubled Woman (Sheffield).—You seem to have been swindled. If your sons did not sign you could get your money back. C. N. W. (St. Neots).—The infantile policies are in order. We cannot say as to the other without further particulars. Y. F. (Berkeley).—We cannot advise proceedings. G. (Brighton).—Ditto. E. H. (London).—Sue for premiums in the City of London Court. R. E. F.—The premiums could be recovered if sued for. V. D. (Old Kent Road).—Without further particulars we cannot advise. R. M.—If there is clear fraud you could recover. J. M. (North Kensington).—Accept surrender value. J. J. (London).—Your premiums could be recovered if you sued. G. H. C. (Bath).—If the assured did not sign the premiums are recoverable. D M. (Fover).—The premiums could be recovered if sued for. E. H. (London).—Ditto. H. B. (Derby).—You have a clear case. Sue in the local County Court. A. D. B. (London).—You could recover. Consult a good local solicitor. W. (St. Pancras).—Write head office for the facts. T. F. (Birmingham).—Sue in the County Court for return of premiums. A. M. (Edinburgh).—The premiums are recoverable on the ground of fraud. A. A. (Southfields).—If you are quite certain the mother did not sign you could recover the premiums. A. M. E. (Hebburn).—You could recover by suing. W. T. (Gateshead).—The premiums are recoverable. M. F. (Newport).—You could recover on proof of the forgery. J. M. (Leeds).—If fraud could be proved you could recover. G. D. (Andover).—Not now the free policy has been accepted. B. H. (Kilyl).—You could recover the premiums. Press for full free policies. E. J. (Southport).—We do not advise proceedings. C. M. (Bournemouth).—You must really decide this for yourself. S. V. (Manchester).—The premiums are recoverable. Consult a good local solicitor. M. E. T. (Belfast).—Sue the Company for premiums. T. M. (Banbury).—Consult a good local solicitor and sue them for fraud. J. C. (Hemel Hempstead).—If assured's signature was forged by the agent, sue for the return of the premiums. E. M. (Oxford).—Proceedings not advised. F. M. C. B. (Barnsley).—The policy is illegal, and if Buck did not sign the proposals the premiums could be recovered. C. S. (Birmingham).—You do not send enough particulars. A. S. B. (Coventry).—On proof of fraud by the agent the premiums are recoverable. T. S. (Birmingham).—Sue for the premiums in the County Court. A. W. (Cardigan).—The particulars you send are insufficient. B. F. (Morpeth).—We cannot advise purchase. J. T. (Dundee).—We do not advise proceedings. M. C. (Southall).—You could recover on the first and second, not on the others. Mrs. B. (Barrow-In-Furness).—We fear you have no remedy S. O. (Branstock).—You should sue for premiums in the County Court. J. S. (Inverness).—The Prudential premiums are recoverable, also the Pearl if fraud is proved. C. D. (Bells Hill).—The premiums are recoverable W. H. G. (Dundee).—If you can prove the forgery you can recover. W. H. (Brixton Hill).—The policy is legal, but thriftless. W. H. S. (Grimsby).—If you could prove fraud you could recover. J. I. (Hull).—Your parents could sue. F. E. C. (Islington).—Threaten proceedings unless they grant full free policies. M. V. (Paygate).—The policy is illegal. Sue the Company. W. M. (Lewisham).—We fear there is no remedy. E S. G. (Dewsbury).—If Fenton did not sign, sue the Company to recover the premiums paid. C. P. (Lancaster).—You could recover the premiums. Consult a good local solicitor. Martin (Aberdare).—Sue for return of premiums. L. L. (Chester).—Ditto. V. C. D. (Sutton).—The father's estate takes the money. Sue for return of premiums. Nurse Anna (Brighton).—If you did not sign the premiums are recoverable. Consult a good local solicitor. Victim (Durham).—The policy is legal. I. F. (Sheffield).—If Prudential policies, sue for premiums. F. J. D. (Manchester).—You could recover. Consult a local solicitor. H. P. (Wanstead).—The terms are very unfair, but you are helpless. A. J. (Stourport).—Sue the Company for premiums. C. E. (Paisley).—Ditto. J. F. C. (Hartlepool.—If Constance Smith did not sign for second policy, sue for premiums. E. W. (Grimsby).—You had better accept free policies. J. M. (Mayfield).—Did the assured sign? Your particulars are not full enough. J. E. (Aberdare).—Sue the Company for premiums, alleging fraud. Sufor (Brighton).—We hesitate to advise proceedings. W. H. J. (Bideford).—Sue the Company in the County Court, alleging fraud. Grenville (Dudley).—We think you could claim £6 per week. Redcarite (Redcar).—The policies are worthless and you could recover the premiums. You should sue in the County Court. F. W. (Newport).—If P. Wright did not sign, sue for the return of premiums. F. H. (Redditch).—Sue the Company for fraud. A. H. (Manchester).—We do not advise proceedings. J. W. (Aberdare).—Sue for premiums. T. F. (Birkenhead).—You could recover the premiums on your husband's policy, but not on your son's. T. B. (New Southgate).—The policies are legal, but thriftless. A. J. (Barnsley).—If you were the agent, we fear there is no remedy. J. H. (Southport).—We fear you have no remedy. J. D. (Dorchester).—If F. D. signed the proposal form you cannot sue. Apply to the head office for best surrender value. W. D. (Worcester).—You have no remedy. R. G. G. (Hunstanton).—The particulars are insufficient to advise. R. B. (Preston).—The terms are inquitous, but we cannot advise proceedings. G. M. L. (Altrincham).—Sue in the local County Court and prove the facts. S H. R. (Smethwick).—Without knowing the terms of the policy we cannot advise. J. B. (Yesteradmyach).—You cannot get anything more. W. S. N.—As your mother signed we do not advise proceedings. A. B. (Perth).—The premiums are recoverable. J. W. K. (Blackpool).—We think so. Consult a local solicitor. P. P. W. (Newark).—We expect the Company will make you out to be liable. F. G. (Portsmouth).—If you signed the proposal form the policy is good. Sunbeam (Paisley).—You must forward the premiums. H. C. C. (Greenwich).—The particulars you send are not enough to enable us to advise. P. R. (Bally Honnis).—The Court of Appeal has held this to be fraud. Sue the Company, and prove the facts. J. H. (Birmingham).—Get the Company to agree to pay you at death.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of enquiries which have been received, some little delay is dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

Exclusive Offer to "John Bull" Readers.

1,000 UNIQUE 18Ct. GOLD DIPPED JAPANESE CHARMS. TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

What Every Woman Wants. ADORI **A Pretty Complexion and Pretty Furs.**

The Perfection of Japanese Toilet Soaps. Box of 3 Tablets, 1s. 3d.
POSTAGE FREE.

DAINTY JAPANESE HAIR FAN ENCLOSED IN EACH BOX.

SECOND GREAT PRESENT DISTRIBUTION.

1st Prize, Sealskin Coat Value 100 gs.
2nd „ Mink Coat ... „ 75 gs.
3rd „ Persian Lamb Coat „ 50 gs.
4th Prize Musquash Coat Value 40 gs.
5th „ Sable Set ... „ 40 gs.
and 245 Consolation Prizes of Beautiful Furs.

In the second competition a further set of Seasonable Prizes will be awarded to the senders of the prettiest three Christian names for a girl.

Which do you think would be the prettiest? Names such as Gertrude, Ivy, Jessie, Kittie, Lillie, Mary, Nellie, are all pretty, but you must know many such pretty or prettier names.

A committee of the prettiest actresses in London, including Miss Ada Blanche, Miss Florence Smithson, Miss Claire Romaine, Miss Madaline Rees, Miss Queenie Leighton, Miss Eileen Concannon, etc., will act as judges of the competition, and prizes will be awarded in order of merit as they decide, and whose decision must be accepted as final. Winners' names will be posted direct to every customer.

The Competition will close on Thursday, February 29th, and to secure prompt delivery it is advisable that orders should be posted *at once*.

The first 1,000 readers of John Bull purchasing two boxes of Adori Toilet Soap (2s. 6d. postage free), or one bottle of Adori Perfume (2s. 6d. postage free), will be presented with a *quaint Japanese gold dipped wish charm* the first consignment of which ever brought to Europe we have secured. These are worth considerably more than the 2s. 6d. we are charging for the soap or perfume, but we are satisfied that they will secure for us an attractive advertisement. As nothing of this description has ever been seen in this country before, readers anxious to secure one should post their order *per return of post*, the number at our disposal being limited.

Post the Order Form below direct to ADORI, KING'S HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.

John Bull, Feb 3.

ORDER FORM.

I enclose Postal Order and stamps for 1s. 3d., for which please send me (postage paid) one Box of Adori Toilet Soap. I think the three prettiest Christian names for a girl are :—

(1st Selection)
1..... 2..... 3.....

(2nd Selection)
1..... 2..... 3.....

(3rd Selection)
1..... 2..... 3.....

Full Name.....

Address.....

.....

Three selections of 3 names are allowed for each box of Adori purchased.
Selections for additional Boxes purchased may be written on plain paper.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

BY WALTER MOORE.

LORD LONDONDERRY.

[In this column our contributor, Mr. Walter Moore, has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.]

As the eyes of the civilised world appeared to be glued on Belfast, and the hearts of sensation-mongers thumped with one accord in pleasant anticipation of a good old Irish row in that city on February 8th, I submitted to the general infection, and crossed to Ulster for the purpose of having a few words with Lord Londonderry.

"Is the situation as serious as the papers make out?" was my first question.

"Sarious, me bhoy!" cried his lordship, "sarious is not the word for ut. There's going to be the foinest row in Belfast on the 8th that niver was. The Orangemen are just spoiling for the foight."

"Your position strikes me as being rather a peculiar one," I said. "For a former Viceroy of Ireland to be openly inciting the populace to riot is slightly *infra dig.*, surely."

"That is not a thrue statement of the case," objected Lord Londonderry. "Ut's anxious I am tu presarve the pace——"

"And the rights of free speech," I interposed.

I thought his lordship looked a little uneasy at this.

"But I'm even more anxious to presarve the union between England and Ireland," he proceeded, ignoring my interruption.

"Refusing to hear Mr. Churchill will not stave off Home Rule," I said. "Everybody knows the bargain has been struck between the Government and the Nationalist party. It is now merely a question of time."

"Niver!" cried Lord Londonderry, thundering on the table. "Ulster will not submit. Didn't Churchill's own father say, 'Ulster will fight, and Ulster will be right'? Tell me that."

"Quite true," I replied, "but whom on earth are you going to fight? Where's the enemy?"

His lordship looked blank for a moment.

"I hadn't thought of that," he confessed. "It's ask Carson I will. He'll know. He's always talkin' about fightin' an' marrchin' to Corrk, if need be."

"Ah," I remarked, "that is another point that has always puzzled me. What is the precise object in marching to Cork?"

"Divil a bit do I know at all at all," admitted his lordship. "But it sounds well."

"It sounds Gilbertian to me," I said. "Indeed, the whole situation is Gilbertian. Here we have a section of the Irish community threatening to resist self-government by physical force, and yet there is no tangible enemy against whom that force can be directed. The merits or demerits of Home Rule do not interest me at the moment, but it does interest and amuse me to hear the bloodthirsty language that is being used by the Orange party. When the Home Rule Bill has passed, and a Parliament has been set up in Dublin, what can Ulster do but acquiesce in the accomplished fact? To talk of armed resistance is childish."

"The Orangemen will not be done out of their fight, annyway," declared Lord Londonderry. "If they can't find the inimy, faith, they'll fight amongst themselves!"

"It will not surprise me in the least if it ends like that," I replied, taking my leave.

"MRS. BULL."

EVERY TUESDAY. PRICE ONE PENNY.

WINTER COLDS.

MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC FROM DOCTORS.

With everyone catching (and most people holding!) a cold these days, our readers would be well advised to read these statements by doctors.

When a doctor himself believes in the efficacy of something designed to relieve human ills, the public may take as an indisputable fact the worthiness of that "something."

For of all the learned professions, the medical has the greatest responsibility, and is, in consequence, most jealous of upon what it bestows its praise.

That is why we take great pride in publishing the subjoined statements made by practising British physicians in the last twelve months.

They were voluntarily given in authentic interviews, and their genuineness is attested by an affidavit sworn to by our interviewer before a Commissioner for Oaths.

If it were not for the ethics of the medical profession the doctors' names would cheerfully be given, as well as their striking views.

"AFTER INFLUENZA."

"I advise Hall's Wine a good deal. It is specially good after influenza and in debilitated conditions generally. I occasionally find several similar preparations in use among my patients, but I always stop them, because I consider Hall's Wine is the only one to be relied upon for standard quality and specific results."

(Interview W. 386—6th Sept., 1911.)

"PRE-DEBILITY"—"CONVALESCENCE"—"CHILL."

"I always advise Hall's Wine when a tonic is required, in pre-debility cases as well as in convalescence after severe illness. I use it myself occasionally. For instance, last week I contracted a slight chill and began to feel shaky, and as I am doing another man's practice, who is away on holiday, I could not afford to lay up, so I fortified myself with a dose of Hall's Wine on going on my rounds, and it certainly enabled me to battle through all right."

(Interview W. 409—20th Sept., 1911.)

CHILLS.

"Hall's Wine is an exceptionally good thing for convalescents, particularly in winter. I have often found two or three doses, taken in time, effectually prevent the development of a chill."

(Interview W. 358—17th Aug., 1911.)

"AFTER INFLUENZA AND OPERATIONS."

"I advise Hall's Wine in debilitated conditions generally, particularly in post influenza, and convalescence after surgical operations. Besides arousing vitality, it has a sustaining value I do not find in any other similar preparation."

(Interview W. 367—28th Aug., 1911.)

"INFLUENZA CASES."

"As to quality, Hall's Wine appears to me to be made of very good materials. As to effect, it is the best thing I know as a general pick-me-up, both because it is quick in action and produces no bad after-effects. I advise it freely as a tonic in convalescence, particularly influenza cases."

(Interview W. 357—17th Aug., 1911.)

"THE MOST SATISFACTORY."

"I have a pretty general use for Hall's Wine. I consider that a meat extract added to wine gives a decided nutritive value to such a preparation, and as I am assured that the wine is of good vintage and well matured, and that the genuine Liebig Company supply the meat extract, I am of opinion that Hall's Wine is the most satisfactory wine for invalid purposes."

(Interview W. 318—6th July, 1911.)

516.

Read the doctors' statements in this advertisement. Then prove them; get a bottle of Hall's Wine from your wine merchant or licensed chemist or licensed grocer. The large size of the genuine is only 3s. 6d.

Avoid Influenza!

If your vital forces are at all weakened, beware of Influenza this weather. Fortify yourself with Hall's Wine—a 3/6 bottle will probably save you from a serious attack.

Hall's Wine

THE MARVELLOUS RESTORATIVE

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

Suppositious Replies of Prominent People.

[*It is our custom to hold a weekly—imaginary—symposium upon some topic of the hour, giving the views of representative men.*]

"WHO IS THE GREATEST LIVING ENGLISHMAN?"

A contemporary having obtained the opinions of a number of celebrities on the interesting question as to who are the twenty greatest men, we decided to repeat the enquiry in a curtailed form, feeling confident that the replies we should receive would be far more interesting for the reason that they would be perfectly candid expressions of opinion. We have not been disappointed; nor, we venture to think, will be our readers when they peruse the appended replies. The problem we submitted to our correspondents was: "Who is the Greatest Living Englishman?"

Mr. G. K. Chesterton:

The fact that you restrict your symposium to "The Greatest Living Englishman" makes the question an exceedingly difficult one. At the same time it places me in a very awkward position. No really great man likes to blow his own trumpet—so long as he can get somebody else to do it for him. I am no exception to this excellent rule. Leaving myself out of the question, therefore, for obvious reasons—inherent modesty, to be explicit—there appears to be no living Englishman remaining who can truly be called great. All our greatest British contemporaries are either Welsh, Scotch, Irish, or naturalised foreigners. It consequently happens that if I venture to reply to your enquiry I must descend to the use of an Irishism by pronouncing G. B. Shaw—with whom I have certain things in common—to be the greatest living Britisher. It is his misfortune, and not his fault, that he is a Hibernian. You are at liberty to publish this letter.

Mr. Hall Caine:

Before answering your question I beg to enquire whether you include Manxmen under the term "Englishman" for the purpose of your symposium? If the natives of the Isle of Man are excluded I prefer not to make any invidious selection from the ranks of living Englishmen.

Mr. Arnold White:

If my opinion is worth anything, I should say that the greatest living Englishman is the journalist who conceals his identity under the pseudonym of "Vanoc" in a well-known contemporary newspaper. Did he not say unto Balfour, Go! and he went? Has he not said unto Haldane, Go! and is not the Secretary for War packing his traps at this moment? Voila!

Mr. George R. Sims:

The greatest Englishman, you bet,
Is he who's known as "Dagonet,"
Who does the public weekly bless
With pungent Mustard and with Cress.
I'm also very proud to say
We dine together every day.—(N.B.—Use "Tatcho.")

The Bishop of London:

The greatest living Englishman is he who has brought up successfully the largest family. I cannot recall his name at the moment, but I have no doubt he will gladly communicate with you when he sees this.

Miss Marie Corelli:

Your question is absurd. There are no great living Englishmen. The modern Englishman is a poor fool, vicious, blasé, frivolous, and cowardly. How else would he submit to be ruled by a parcel of Scotch, Irish, and Welshmen? I tell you the day of the Englishman is done. Whatever heroic qualities he may have possessed in the past, to-day he is little better than a slave. There is no great living Englishman. See my recent article in a well-known monthly magazine.

Mr. G. B. Shaw:

Define an Englishman, and tell me what constitutes greatness, and I will send you my selection. Why did you not include Irishmen? It would have simplified the problem. In fact, I could then have given you the answer off-hand.

CONFERENCE OF THE IMMORTALS.

From our Special Correspondent.

The Annual Conference of the Immortals took place last week on the summit of Mount Parnassus. There was a large and illustrious gathering, and the proceedings were attended by much excitement. One subject only was down on the agenda for discussion, namely, "The Condition of England," and the debate was marked by the impassioned oratory of many who engaged in it.

The Chairman, Mr. William Shakespeare, opened the proceedings on a very serious note. His full eye flashed beneath his lofty brow, and he spoke with a passion that instantly communicated itself to his hearers. He said:

"This England never did, nor never shall,
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror.
Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them: nought shall make us rue,
If England to itself do rest but true."

(*Deep murmurs of applause.*)

Lord Tennyson:

"O Statesmen, guard us; guard the eye, the soul
Of Europe, keep our noble England whole!"

(*Cheers, and cries of "What price Ireland?"*)

William Wordsworth, who was greeted with shouts of "No preaching!" said:

"Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour;
England hath need of thee; she is a fen
Of stagnant waters."

(*Cries for "Milton!" to which there was no response, that worthy not being present.*)

James Russell Lowell, who has not yet lost his American accent, caused some amusement by declaring in a drawling voice:

"Of all the sarse that I can call to mind,
England doos make the most onpleasant kind;
It's *you're* the sinner ollers, *she's* the saint,
Wot's good's all English, all that isn't ain't."

(*Cheers and loud laughter.*)

Charles Churchill (*with much passion*):

"Be England what she will,
With all her faults she is my country still."

(*Thunders of applause.*)

William Hazlitt: "The English are rather a foul-mouthed nation."

During the storm of protest that arose at this point, the last speaker was ejected from the meeting. The disturbance having subsided, the good-humour of the assembly was restored by—

Beranger, who said: "In spite of their hats being very ugly, Goddam! I love the English."

(*Loud laughter.*)

Lord Macaulay suggested that the Conference was getting a little out of hand, and concluded his remark by saying:

"Attend all ye who list to hear our noble England's praise;
I tell of the thrice famous deeds she wrought in ancient days."

(*Cries of "No you don't!" "Shut up!" "Sit down!"*)

Eliza Cook (*speaking with indignation*):

"A glorious charter, deny it who can,
Is breathed in the words, 'I'm an Englishman.'"

W. S. Gilbert:

"For he might have been a Roosian,
A French or Turk or Proosian,
Or perhaps I-ta-li-an!
But in spite of all temptations
To belong to other nations,
He remains an Englishman!"

De Foe: "That vain, ill-natured thing, an Englishman."

Before De Foe could resume his seat he was frog-marched out of the hall. Meanwhile the Chairman had risen to appeal for order and a little more tolerance. "Here," he said, "will be an old abusing of God's patience and the King's English." (*Laughter.*)

At this point the Chairman was interrupted by a voice at the back of the hall shouting: "That heterogeneous thing, an Englishman!"

The interrupter was discovered to be De Foe, who had managed to return unnoticed to the assembly. He was again ejected, protesting volubly. Whereupon the Conference broke up in disorder, no resolution being put.

A PLAIN STATEMENT TO

Furniture Buyers.

Artistic, well-made Furniture not only adds to the appearance of your home, and makes or mars your comfort, but is an important social and business asset.

There is no need to continue with the old-fashioned, dowdy, half-worn furniture, or to commence house with new but shoddy goods. The question of expense is one that need not trouble you in the slightest.

We are prepared to supply any single article of furniture, or furnish flat, house or mansion upon a simple system of small payments out of income. We ask for a first payment of 10 per cent., only 2s. in the £.

You may select the article of furniture you require from our immense stock of best London goods, and although you desire to defer payment, you select your articles at cash prices, merely adding 5 per cent. for the extra convenience.

We guarantee the value of every article sold, and welcome all orders, whether to the value of £10 or £100.

With pleasure we will forward you a copy of a large illustrated furniture book describing a section of our immense stock, so that no matter where you may dwell you may select your article and take advantage of the firm's unique system of deferred payments.

To secure a copy of this interesting book, gratis and post-paid, please send us your name and address on your usual notepaper.

We have every confidence in stating that our name stands as a guarantee of equitable trading, and the public, whether placing large or small orders, have learnt that they may with confidence rely upon us to give best value for money outlayed.

We cordially invite you to call and inspect our unique stock, but if you cannot call please write for the illustrated furniture book.

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CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

BY OUR TAME PHRENOLOGIST.

[We have engaged, at enormous expense, an eminent phrenologist—who is, withal, a deep student of current problems—to "feel the bumps" of prominent public men, for the benefit of our readers. How he manages to secure the "sittings" is his own secret.]

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE.

Mr. Carnegie, I believe? . . . Ah, I thought so. Good morning to you, sir. . . . You have left it rather late in life in submitting to a scientific analysis of your mental attributes. Too busy accumulating money? Quite so. Well, well; better late than never. Sit you down; and understand this, sir, the immensity of your wealth does not inspire me with the least awe. Whilst you are in this room you are no more to me than any other human specimen. My delineations have always been, and always will be, made without fear or favour. . . . I know that, sir; but I have found, as a rule, that so-called self-made men are more jealous of the respect they deem to be due to them than are men of aristocratic birth. Now, having made my position clear, we will begin.

You belong to the hard-headed type. True, you possess some imagination, but it is not of the highest quality, else you would scarcely be able to endure the terrible burden of enormous possessions, whilst around you day by day you see appalling evidence of poverty and wretchedness.

Your dominating faculty is, of course, *Acquisitiveness*. This organ has two seats—one over each ear; and it is the protuberance of these bumps that gives your head its characteristic broad, squat appearance.

It may surprise you to learn that your bump of *Combativeness* is very large. Yes, yes; I know all about your labours—er, hum—in the cause of universal peace; but permit me to remind you that combativeness may be expressed in various ways. In your case the faculty has been exercised mainly in the business field. And destruction has followed in its train as surely as it does on the stricken field. No one can possibly accumulate between forty and fifty millions of money in business without some of his financial antagonists meeting with misery and defeat. . . . Quite so; I merely point this out for the purpose of comparing your peace proclivities where nations are concerned with the combativeness which has enabled you to emerge victor from the more sordid strife of the market place.

Your bump of *Benevolence* is one of the most remarkable in character that I have ever examined. It is evidently of comparatively recent growth. I imagine that it made its appearance when the vast growth of your prosperity made its exercise of small credit to you. Consequently its activities have taken a peculiar form. You appear to be obsessed with the false and foolish idea that public libraries are a panacea for all the ills that afflict the body politic. It is unfortunate that your benevolence did not take a more humane form. Whilst so many hospitals throughout the country are in debt, whilst the horrors and the scandal of our poor law persist, it seems to me a wicked thing that a man with your unlimited opportunities for doing real good should lavish millions on what Lord Rosebery aptly called cemeteries of dead books.

No, sir; thank you all the same. My fee for millionaires is half a guinea, and I desire no more. Good-day!

A Gas Company's Collector

Nervous Collapse, Neuralgia—

That he is again *able* to resume business after being *driven from work* by nervous prostration is *entirely due*, says Mr. Turner, to the *revivifying energy* imparted by Phosferine. Forced by enfeebled nerves to stay inactive at home, for *nine weeks* afraid to venture out alone, in dread of being supplanted by a more robust worker, it was in Phosferine he at last found deliverance from the nervous ills which doctors failed to cure. So pronounced was the stimulating effect of Phosferine that Mr. Turner was *able to resume work almost immediately*, and the future is no longer a nightmare to him. Quite transformed by Phosferine into a healthy, energetic, and self-reliant man, he now feels he has enough vitality to easily retain the advantages newly won by his vigorous industry.

Promptly Cured.

Mr. J. H. Turner, 124, Richmond Road, Thornton Heath, London, S.W., writes: "I first heard of Phosferine after I had been *away from business nine weeks* from nervous prostration, which left me in such a state I was even afraid to leave the house alone, or to cross the road, and was always under the impression something dreadful was going to happen. I suffered great pains in the head and face, which the doctor said was neuralgia, but the medicine he gave me never did me any good. A friend then recommended to me Phosferine (I may state here that this was my second nervous breakdown). After taking a 1s. bottle I felt great relief from the neuralgia pains, and also my nerves were much improved. I went on taking it for six months, at the end of that time I was in a *perfect state of good health*, and was able to continue my cycling to and fro to business through the thickest of London traffic, and have been in the *best of health* ever since. I always keep Phosferine by me, which *saves me big doctor's bills*.—Aug. 8, 1911."

PHOSFERINE

GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

NEURALGIA	MATERNITY WEAKNESS	HYSTERIA
RHEUMATISM	NERVOUS HEADACHES	SLEEPLESSNESS
BRAIN-FAG	PREMATURE DECAY	EXHAUSTION
LASSITUDE	INFLUENZA	MALARIA
INDIGESTION	ANAEMIA NEURITIS	NERVOUSNESS

And disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

The Royal Tonic.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands to

The Royal Family
H.I.M. The Empress of Russia
H.I.M. the Dowager Empress of Russia
H.M. the King of Greece
H.M. the King of Spain
The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

A WONDERFUL CHANCE.

In order to place before every reader THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY of acquiring a FREE SHARE in an industrial concern under Municipal and Government control, arrangements have been made by a well-known firm of Bankers to distribute

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We rely upon your absolute satisfaction to secure your order AND FUTURE CUSTOM.

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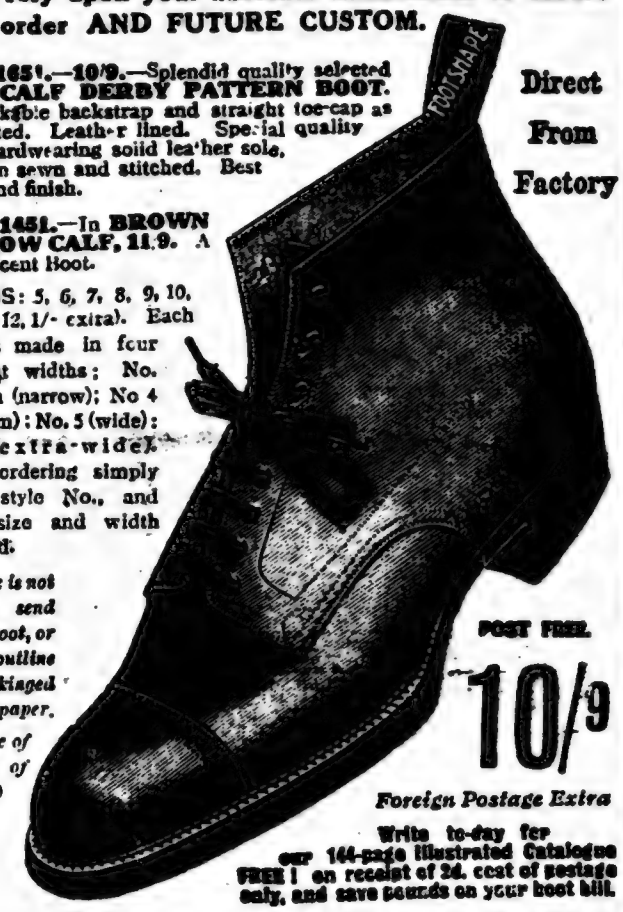
If size is not known, send an old boot, or draw outline of stockinged foot on paper. (*Outline of boot is of no use.*)



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RINGS

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

[In this column we give from week to week an anticipatory —always good-humoured—Epitaph of some celebrity of the day. We need scarcely say we hope it will be many years before his relatives will have to consider seriously our suggestion.]

Weep,
Paſsynge Stranger;
For
Wythyn thys tombe
Are enſhrowed ye mortal remaynes
Of
Rudyard Kipling,
Ye Imperiall Poet Laureate
Of ye Britiſh Empyre.
Borne
Anno Domini 1865
Atte Bombay
Where ye ſuckled ſome from a
Ne ſoone as hee was olde enowe
Hee was ſente to Englande
To bee educated atte
Ye United Service College,
Weſtward Ho!,
Where hee plaied hyghe jinkes
And eke ye verie devil,
As is knowne untoe all whoo have read
Ye storie of hys ſchoole lyfe,
"Stalky & Co."
Returnynge to India,
Hee became,
Anno Domini 1882,
A Journalyſt,
And myght verie well have lyved out hys lyfe
Yn obſcuritie,
Or been chewed by a tyger yn ye jungle;
Hadde hee notte written some
"Departmental Ditties"
And
Some verie
"Plain Tales From The Hills."
Theſe laſte wonne hym a meaſure of fame
And encouraged hym
To keepe on keepynge on;
Ye whyche hee didde
Untill,
Havynge written manie bookes
And an abundance of verſes,
Hee preſentlie diſcovered thatte hee hadde become
Riche, celebrated, and—deteſted;
For,
Preachynge alwaies ye goſpell of
IMPERIALISM,
Hee excyted ye hatred of ye *Dailie Newes*
And of all whoo drynke yn yts wateric wyſdom
Wyth theyre cocoa;
Moreover,
When ye South African War broke out
Hee ynvyted ye general publick to
PAY, PAY, PAY,
Ye whyche they didde,
And have been dooynge ever since.
At laſte,
Strycken wyth grief atte ye ſpecktackle
Of Brytiſh degradacion
Through yeares of Liberal and Radickal adminiſtracion;
Hee made hys waie to Pook's Hill,
Lay hymſelfe downe on ye ſummitt,
And dyed.

Pass notte thys tombe wythouten teare,
For Rudyard Kipling refteth here,
Whoſe patriotick verſes styll
Our bolde and Brytyſh boſoms thryll.
Here hath hys ma'sy tombe been ſetto
Left we forgette, left we forgette!

"BRAININE" FOR NERVES AND WORRY.
All Chemists, 1/1½.

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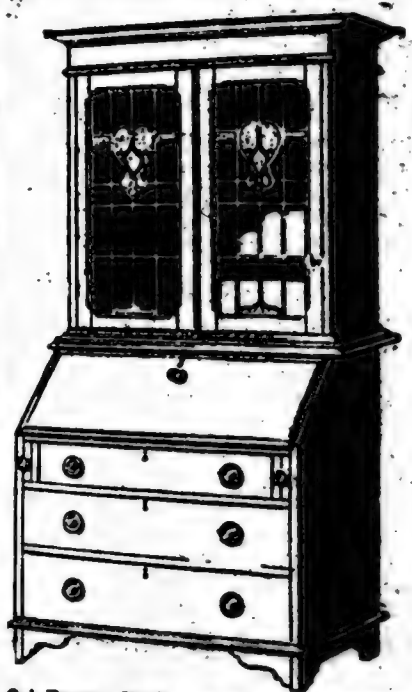

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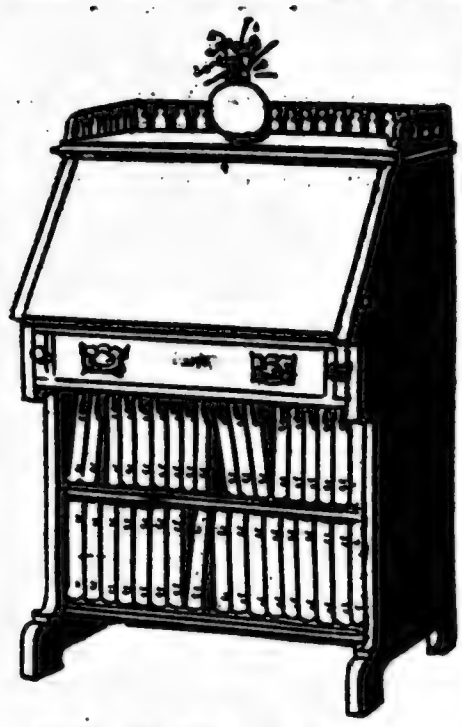

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THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"Copyright Law."

Is our Copyright Law all bunkum or not? Last week Lionel Monckton appealed from a refusal to grant an injunction to prevent his composition called "Moonstruck" (which was sung by Miss Gertie Millar in "Our Miss Gibbs") from being reproduced on the gramophone without consent. The appeal was dismissed with costs by the Court without calling upon counsel for respondents. This appears on the face of things to be the most startling case of legalised piracy I have ever heard of. How right the gentleman was when he remarked that the law was a "beast of burden"! I won't make use of the word he really mentioned, besides Mr. Monckton will like this one better. What a pity Lionel didn't call his song "Moonshine" instead of "Moonstruck"; it would have been a better title under these strange circumstances.

No Sense Or—?

What are all these fussy old gentlemen doing down at the Lord Chamberlain's offices? Where is Mr. Charles Brookfield? Are all the theatres going to be turned into cinematograph shows? Is the three or four-act play doomed? These are but a few of the questions that I have been asked during the last day or two. Now comes the extraordinary announcement that a curtain riser sent for licensing purposes to the L.C.'s St. James' Palace house has been refused, and scant courtesy shown to an actress-manageress who has never given London anything but the smartest and neatest of entertainments. Miss Tempest states that her manager was even refused the opportunity of cutting out any phrases open to question in the little play she proposed to put on the stage last Monday at the Coronet Theatre. Isn't this carrying matters beyond the limit not only of censorship but of courtesy as well? Marie Tempest is a serious worker, she has her theatrical reputation at stake, and to have a piece she sends to the powers that be—who are they?—for a licence and this to be refused, without a why or a wherefore, is simply disgraceful. Let us have a censor with "sense—or" none at all!

Difference Between Vulgarity and Immorality.

There is no doubt that many people confound the vulgar with the immoral, and you will scarcely ever get two people to agree as to the one or the other. A man will tell you that he thinks if Sarah Bernhardt is allowed to act "Phèdre" in this country there can be no good in a censor at all. A woman will argue "Yes, but 'Phèdre' is a classic, written in exquisite verse, played by the greatest actress of our time." What an argument! "Phèdre" is a story of incest, and although it was played here in England, Shelley's drama "Cenci" was absolutely forbidden, and in order to get it performed a society was organised, and nobody allowed admittance except those who were its members. Now "Œdipus Rex" is still being given at Covent Garden. All three plays are written round the same story, and yet *one* was banned. It is a queer mix-up, isn't it? Again, the subject of Ibsen's "Ghosts," in which a son discusses with his mother hereditary disease, is, to my mind, horrible, and should certainly not have been presented in any theatre. But there would be a violent literary outcry if "Ghosts" or any play of its class were prohibited on account of its immorality. Once advertise vulgarity under the name of immorality, and there will be chaos everywhere.

Consumption's Annual Toll.

That Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh, Influenza, and other minor complaints of the throat or lungs almost invariably lead to that dread disease, Consumption, is a fact that cannot be too strongly impressed upon those who suffer from them. Although most people know this, still, there are many who think they have only a cough or cold which will pass away in a day or two, and allow their complaint to progress and become more serious, until too late—until their physician informs them they are in an advanced stage of Consumption. Then comes the remorse for wasted weeks or months, which adds to the shock caused by the first knowledge of the true nature of their disease, and makes recovery in almost every case well-nigh hopeless.

Consumption is known to claim over 60,000 victims annually in Great Britain alone, while in the United States of America, it is said, 90,000 die from it each year, and how many of these 150,000 valuable lives could have been saved by successful treatment in the early stages of the complaint will never be learned. That Consumption can be prevented, if those diseases which lead to it are checked in time, has been amply demonstrated in the past, and no one should allow the first warning symptoms, which resist the ordinary simple home remedies, to go unheeded.

A book containing 150 pages of valuable information, beautifully illustrated with eight coloured plates, printed in plain type in simple language, bound in cloth and embellished in gold, is now being issued, and although it is a costly production, a limited number are to be distributed entirely free by the publishers to those who would, in their own opinion, benefit by reading it. The book describes the nature of Consumption, and gives the history of the disease from when it was first known to man. It also deals exhaustively with the symptoms of Consumption's allied diseases, and tells of a home treatment which has already saved hundreds of lives, which were in imminent danger, and in fact some were so far advanced that no hope of recovery was entertained by friends or physicians.

Those who are threatened by an obstinate and persistent cough, pains in the chest or back which they cannot relieve, Influenza, Asthma, Bronchitis, or Chronic Catarrh, should write at once for the free book (sending no money) to the Yonkerman Company (Dept. 420), 6, Bouverie Street, London, E.C., who will send it postage paid, and from it they can learn how their recovery may be brought about without great inconvenience in their present surroundings.

IS YOUR HEART BAD?

Feel your pulse. Is it regular? Do you ever have Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Skipping a Beat, Cold Hands or Feet, Dropsy, Pains under the Left Shoulder Blade, Trouble in Lying on Left Side, Dizzy Spells, Drowsiness after Eating, Violent Starts in Your Sleep, Fulness in the Throat, Neuralgia Around the Heart?

If you have any of these symptoms, is it not time to correct them?

Oxien has proved an almost infallible cure of Heart Complaints. Let us send you a FREE PACKET, that you may, WITHOUT COST, try its effects upon your trouble.

We will send you a week's trial treatment, relying on your telling your friends if it does you good. Full particulars of use and of some of the cures with every packet. It costs you nothing to try.—THE GIANT OXIEN CO., (Dept. 222 F.F.), 8, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.

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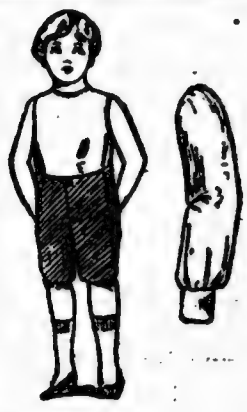

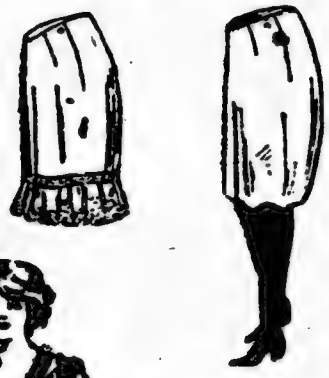

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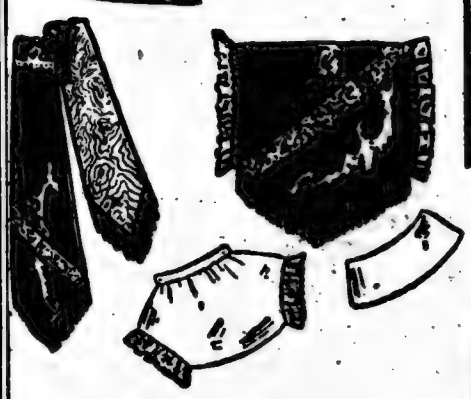

MAKE SURE OF THE **FIRST PATTERN** AND ENVELOPE.

BUY A COPY OF THIS WEEK'S **Mrs. BULL, 1d.** TO-DAY.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and only those of general interest will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

W. G. H. (Brighton) has come back from Canada, where he found that his trade—that of a chef—was entirely monopolised by Chinamen, Japanese, and Greeks. We are afraid he will find the foreigner much in evidence over here.

G. G. (Bolton) corroborates the testimony of another reader as to the prowess of Mr. Ward, the Bloodless Surgeon, of Manchester and Bolton. So that is all right.

"LE BLISGON."—We shall be glad to have your proofs.

A. S. (Birmingham).—Your question will be answered in *The Lay Lawyer*.

E. V. (Walthamstow).—Mr. Bottomley at one time owned the *Sun*, but not the *Star*. As regards the latter paper, you are confusing him with the late Professor Stuart.

"FAIR PLAY" (Cambridge) thinks we unduly attack one Party. We thought we attacked them all, but we necessarily give our principal attention to the one in power—because that is always capable of doing the most mischief.

"CONSTANT READER" (Wolverhampton).—We do not advise you to pay a preliminary fee of a guinea to *any* employment agency. The money would be better spent in advertising and answering advertisements.

"A STUDIOUS READER" (Catford).—We cannot explain the vagaries of the Post Office in your district, but we certainly think letters should receive attention before circulars in the morning.

W. B. (Belfast).—We are unable to recommend *any* Colonial employment agency. But why leave Belfast, especially for Canada, when such lively times are approaching?

F. McM. (Perth) makes some interesting suggestions for the next "Honours List." Mr. Bradshaw (of Time-table fame) to be Lord Guidus; Mr. Herbert Samuel, P.M.G., to be Lord Deliverus; Mr. William Hesketh Lever to be Lord Cleansus; and Mr. Lloyd George—of course—to be Lord Helpus.

"ENQUIRER" (Rochdale) and a hundred others.—The Calcutta Sweepstakes are now confined to members of the Calcutta Turf Club. Persons sending subscriptions will have their money returned.

"SANDY MACNAB" (London, W.) objects to our calling "Cur" Hardie a puritan and a Celt, because "puritans and Celts are loyal subjects of their King and do not appreciate being placed in the same category as the person known as J. Keir Hardie, M.P." We shall have to invent a fresh designation for him. Meanwhile, we apologise to the puritans and Celts.

W. H. (Highbury Park, N.) is anxious to recover a chased silver cigarette case bearing the initials "W. J. H.," which he lost between Oxford Street and Highbury Barn on the 31st December last. A reward is offered, and the finder is at liberty to smoke the cigarettes. Perhaps W. H. will send the price of this announcement—say 5s.—to our "Human Document" fund.

"SID" (Euston Road, N.W.).—Witnesses are no longer compelled to kiss the Bible. In the case of so-called atheists an affirmation is sufficient. Nevertheless, perjury still flourishes.

E. W. B. (Swansea) and W. B. (Mumbles) send us an advertisement that appeared in the *Swansea Daily Post*. We are pleased to give it wider publicity:—

Advertiser would like to have a few lessons daily from a Lady.

What a thirst for education there is nowadays!

W. J. G. (Bethnal Green).—We know nothing—good, bad, or indifferent—about Smallman and Terry, of Geneva.

O. G. (Wood Green) wants us to give a "Biscuit" to *Mrs. Bull* for describing a woodchuck as a bird. But surely this is quite right, as it is the green woolpecker, which the dictionary says is "one of a family (*Picidæ*) of birds in the order *Picariæ*." What could be more learned than that?

Will the young lady who left her guardian at Peckham on Tuesday morning, the 16th January, either return home or communicate with her heart-broken mother?

V. T. (Selby) would be glad if any of our readers could tell him anything about Alfred Lascelles, Football Accountant, Basle, Switzerland, who, he says, claims to be a "member of Tattersall's." We pause for a reply.

P. W. M. P. (Penang).—We cannot criticise the Judge of the Straits Settlements who hears civil suits without jury and reserves his judgments for four months, unless you tell us his name. If you will do so, we will pass the matter on to the *Lay Lawyer*.

"CRISAIG" (Greenock).—It is estimated that the National Insurance Act will cost the country £24,500,000 the first year; the State will contribute £2,500,000, the employers £9,900,000, and the employees £12,100,000. Looks like ninepence for fourpence, doesn't it?

G. B. (Merthyr Tydfil).—You are right, it is nice to "never feel tired" but if we had to read many letters like yours we should soon have "that tired feeling." Try "Brainine."

A. T. L. (Handsworth).—We see nothing "disgusting" in the incident you relate. A woman of 57 who has a child is a phenomenon, and His Honour Judge Smith may be excused for expressing surprise. Write to the Bishop of London about it.

P. C. W. (Richmond, Yorks).—We know nothing about the Turvey Treatment Association, Ltd., of 2, Harewood Place, Hanover Square, but if they have failed to fulfil the conditions upon which your friend paid the money, and if they persist in refusing to do so, it might be as well to alter the first word of their name.

M. M. I. (Fortrose) maintains that A.D. 2,000 will be a Leap Year. In view of its proximity it is important that there should be no mistake about it. Personally we have no feeling in the matter.

"A CONSTANT READER."—On the face of it it is very generous of Mr. Price, the Forest Gate baker, to give away bread free, gratis and for nothing, but if, as you suggest, it is being done to prevent one of his late employés from making a start for himself—well, we would not accept a loaf on those terms—not at any price.

"REX" (Armley).—It is obviously impossible for us to guarantee the *bona-fides* of all our advertisers. If you will specify your complaint against the concern in question we will look into the matter.

"AN ONLOOKER" (Catford).—Always glad to hear from a candid man, but when you suggest that our voice does not always "ring clear"—well, consider the weather we're having. Wait and—hear.

S. B. B. (Grimsby).—If you owed for the margarine and used it in your business we do not think you should have tried to evade your just debt by pleading infancy. As we were not present at the trial, and cannot clearly follow your account of it, we are unable to advise you in the matter.

"A LOVER OF TRUTH."—If we were to print your letter we should be involved in enough libel actions to last a lifetime. Is that why you do not give your name and address?

"READER OF JOHN BULL" writes: "On three occasions recently I have seen heavy article fall down heavily from the rack on heads of the members of my own family." His family appear to be unlucky. We suggest that in future it would be advisable for them to deposit their luggage on the seat and travel in the rack.

"ONLY A CARMAN" (Silvertown.)—We agree that the employers are usually more to blame than the carmen for cruelty to their animals, and think they should be more severely punished.

A. E. C. (Transvaal) informs us that railwaymen in the Transvaal have a grievance. He does not tell us the nature of it, so we cannot very well sympathise with them. But who has not a grievance nowadays?

A. F. (Thornton Heath).—If you had followed this column of late you would have seen that *Football Chat*, of Basle, Switzerland, has been in Queer Street for some time. You have no remedy, except to steer clear in future.

R. D. W. (Birmingham) sends us a sample of the decorations which adorn the wall of King Charles' Sleeping Chamber at Aston Hall, Birmingham. Upon examination we find it to be newspaper painted cocoa colour. A bit of the *Daily News*, by the smell of it.

C. R. W. (Llanelly) wants to know whether German agitators have had anything to do with the recent epidemic of strikes. We don't know for sure, but the Teuton seems to be mixed up in most of our trade troubles.

J. D. (Leicester) sends us some verses uncomplimentary to the mosquito, and expresses the opinion that they apply equally well to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, owing to the "blood-sucking" propensities of both. We imagine that Mr. Lloyd George has been inserting his proboscis in J. D.'s unearned increment. Hence the animosity.

"MEMBER J.B.L."—Excellent for a first attempt. The defects and dangers of the Party system provide a fine theme for the virile pen. Thanks for good wishes.

"MAC" (Newcastle) protests against the "damnable reiteration" of the phrase "takes the biscuit" in our "Biscuit" column, and also against "Oh, for a Business Government!" at the end of some of our paragraphs. We have sometimes thought of modifying the former (although doing so rather takes away the point of the award), but abandon the latter—never!

A. L. S. (Wednesbury).—If your Danish friend is a British subject, viz., naturalised, and is qualified in all other respects, he may claim an Old Age Pension. But we cannot promise even then that he will get it. The ways of Old Age Pension officials, like those of the Heathen Chinee, are peculiar.

"ANONYMOUS."—We are sorry the skating rink attendant told your mother she was "not a lady." It must have given her a painful surprise. But there is no necessity for her to believe it.

"DRAPER."—The best way to learn public speaking is—by public speaking. But why trouble to learn? Surely there are quite enough public speakers distracting the country nowadays without your adding to the confusion.

J. A. (Acton Vale) asks what percentage of profit he will make if he buys goods for £20 and sells them for £100. A thundering big one.

"CAIUS" (Broxburn).—Certainly, an employer may "ask his clerks to work from 6.30 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. or even after that time with only half-an-hour for breakfast and half-an-hour for dinner." But it is open to the clerks to refuse—if they are prepared to lose their jobs.

[We are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

TO LAW STUDENTS.

Wanted smart young fellows for the staff of the *LAY LAWYER*. No interruption of studies. Apply in writing to Editor, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

BRAININE

The Great Energiser

—the only cure for Brain Fag, "Nerves" and Sleeplessness.

A preparation that supersedes all nerve tonics, and guaranteed free from strychnine or any other poisonous drugs.

Weigh your nerves in the balance and they will NOT be found wanting after BRAININE.

BRAININE—Little pellets which are swiftly, surely, and permanently curing many thousands of distressing nervous complaints.

BRAININE is perhaps the most wonderfully effective preparation for the alleviation and cure of nervous complaints which has ever come before the public, and is quite distinct and far in advance of any of the so-called remedies which have previously been placed upon the market. Its unique success even in the most acute nervous cases may be largely attributed to the fact that its function is to build up and revitalise the brain tissues which so actively govern the whole nervous system.

The Brain—the great nerve junction—How Brainine clears and builds it up into a healthy and vigorous state—a state reflected on every nerve in the body.

BRAININE is in itself a brain tonic and perfect brain food—it speedily clears the brain cells of any poisonous waste matters which are so seriously retarding its healthy activity, replacing new, clean, and sound tissues; and in this way putting the whole brain mechanism in perfect working order, rendering it abnormally sound and healthy. . . . It has been found that the whole nervous system immediately benefits in quite an extraordinary manner—new life and vigour being imparted to every nerve.

BRAININE, acting *via* the brain, has triumphed; it has killed the trouble at the root.

A very small quantity of BRAININE will completely rejuvenate your nerves—its tonic properties are without doubt quite unique, and eminent physicians, after the most careful and practical tests, have asserted that it is so far the only preparation which has successfully solved the nerve question.

If you are a sufferer from Brain-fag, Worry, Sleeplessness, Nervous Excitement, Irritability, Physical Lassitude and other nervous complaints, you will find in Brainine a sure, swift, and permanent cure.

Every nerve sufferer is urged to make a careful trial of BRAININE without one moment's unnecessary delay.

BRAININE is sold in boxes 1s. 1½d., and will be mailed post free to any address in the United Kingdom.

If you are a sufferer BRAININE is for you invaluable.

Some Convincing Testimony.

Mr. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P., after a practical test of BRAININE, says:

"You may certainly give me as a reference to the remarkable qualities of BRAININE. Most of my clerks now take it regularly, as well as myself—and I think we get through more work than any other office in London, AND ARE NEVER TIRED. Why don't you advertise it?"

December, 1911.

A LEADING HOSPITAL NURSE says:—"Under doctor's orders I am now using BRAININE when on duty, and the effect is really wonderful. Most of my 'convalescents' take it—and are loud in its praise."

December, 1911.

MR. C. writes:—"My wife has already derived great benefit from the BRAININE pellets. Kindly forward me another box, by return, for which I enclose 1s. 1½d."

December, 1911.

Mr. R. writes:—"Please forward me a box of BRAININE pellets. I find that they are all that you claim for them, and am, therefore, strongly recommending them to my friends."

December, 1911.

The writer, having derived great benefit from BRAININE, would be obliged if more could be forwarded by return. Enclosed please find P.O. for 1s. 1½d." Yours gratefully, J. F.

January, 1912.

"Gentlemen,—I received your samples of BRAININE, and I think—well, one can fancy a good deal, but I seem to feel improved. Kindly send me another 1s. 1½d. packet. I am going to give them a further trial. Also kindly state if I can get the same at Boots', Ltd., or where in this district."

Yours faithfully, MRS. M.

January, 1912.

"Dear Sirs,—First box splendid; please send me two as per JOHN BULL coupon." R. G.

January, 1912.

"Gentlemen,—Kindly forward me another box of your BRAININE, for which I enclose 1s. 1½d. in stamps. I have been taking your BRAININE for a short time only, and must say it has a wonderful effect." Yours faithfully, S. J.

Your Chemist or Stores can obtain BRAININE for you from their wholesale houses. If, however, there is any difficulty or delay in getting it please cut out this order form and post direct to us, with remittance.

To THE BRAININE COMPANY, 2 Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Please forward me a supply of BRAININE, for which I enclose P.O. 1s. 1½d.

Name .....

Address (in full).....

.....

State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss.....

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation :—
Won't Home Rule make a "difference" in Ireland?
Has Ulster something "up its sleeve"?
Isn't Italy suffering from a bad "seize-on"?
Isn't the German Navy a "growing" evil?
How many people say "D." Lloyd George?
Isn't a Labour Party Conference the place for "striking" addresses?
Will the "Butter Ring" stop the buttering?
Would Germany like any of *our* colonies?
Doesn't labour "unrest" mean "quiet" times?
Didn't the Y.M.C.A. clocks "gain" a bit?
Doesn't the new automatic franking machine sell "stamps"?

"Love to woman is a necessity," says G. Ivy Sanders. Yes, and sometimes necessity knows no law.

A recently published book is called "The Lure." It should be attractively bound.

An autograph letter of John L. Sullivan, the pugilist, fetched only 2s. 3d. His "fist" used to be worth more than that.

"Floor Collapses at an Auction," reads a headline. There must have been some heavy bidding.

The Toronto schoolmaster who is forced to pay his scholars a halfpenny per day for not playing truant must be somewhat at a loss.

"There are no clever people nowadays," says Will Crooks. But there are some who think they are, and that's why they talk.

"Execution is the disgrace of England," says Berry, the ex-hangman. Yet we call it capital punishment.

The Colchester Brewing Co., which paid over 82 per cent. of its profits last year to the Government, must be thankful for small mercies.

A Pittsburg policeman has had his watch stolen by a pickpocket. It isn't safe to ask that constable the time just now.

A morning paper offers a guinea for the best idea for making money. We should say that buying new ideas at that price is as good as any.

Two miles of telephone wire has been stolen on the Metropolitan Railway. Fancy a thief going to such lengths.

A Hobby Club is New York's latest. The members will bore each other to death.

"No person was ever born to sit still," says Dr. Charles Brown. No, even M.P.s can't keep their seats long.

Caruso, who does not like to talk, because his "voice is too valuable," evidently agrees that silence is golden.

OUR FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

THE ONE THOUSAND POUNDS NEARLY WON.

TWO COMPETITORS GET VERY CLOSE.

Again our £1,000 prize has been nearly won—two competitors dead-heating for the consolation prize of £52 10s. These competitors may be considered as both lucky and unlucky—lucky for dividing the substantial amount of £52 10s., and unlucky for only just missing the £1,000. The names of the winning competitors are :—

Mr. E. Houst, of 4, Leigh Road, Westcliff, whose coupon read as follows :—

Notts County	1	Blackburn Rovers	2
Burnley	5	Hull City	1
Brentford	3	New Brompton	2

and

Mr. S. Burton, of 155, Beresford Street, Camberwell, with :—

Notts County	1	Blackburn Rovers	3
Burnley	4	Hull City	1
Brentford	4	New Brompton	0

A large proportion of our competitors disqualified themselves by not observing our conditions—especially the rule to write their names and addresses distinctly on the back of the envelopes.

FRAUD IMPOSSIBLE.

It will, we are sure, interest our competitors to know that by means of a certain system—involving the building of specially constructed boxes—it is *absolutely impossible* for any coupon to be put in after the competition is closed, and for any bogus claim thus to get passed. This is a very important point for competitors to bear in mind, as we have reason to believe that in many other competitions prizes are paid to persons who have not genuinely won them.

THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF QUALITY.

"Black & White" Whisky

Jas. Buchanan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow & London.

The habit of taking Mustard regularly at meals

is a sign of virile young manhood. There isn't much the matter, or likely to be, with the young fellow who whets his appetite and keeps his digestion with the liberal use of

COLMAN'S D.S.F. mustard

Best Vulcanite Mouthpiece scientifically constructed to minimise the pressure upon the teeth.

This unique design, made in all the favourite patterns, ensures a thoroughly cool and comfortable smoke.

The general excellence of this pipe will delight even the most discriminating smoker.

Price 2/6 each.

(Silver mounted.)

Of all Tobacconists and Stores.

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16 Avenue Massina Nice
2 Kärnthnerstrasse Vienna
398 Fifth Avenue New York

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ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure. In 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For Free Sample send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. [Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

BARGAINS IN
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE.
TO BE SOLD PRIVATELY BY

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

The following goods having been removed from Holland Road, Kensington; Glenheim Mansions, Lisson Grove; Summerville Road, Thames Ditton; Maddox Street, W.; Goldhurst Terrace, Hampstead; Westhill, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Theobald's Park; and elsewhere, are offered at half the original cost, and comprise, amongst other articles too numerous to mention, the following general household effects:—BEDROOM FURNITURE: 6 oak bedroom suites, from £4 15s.; 3 white enamelled bedroom suites, from £4 4s.; 5 solid oak bedroom suites, with large wardrobe and dressing-table, with side cheval glasses, £5 17s. 6d.; walnut bedroom suite, reflex mirrors, to dressing table, £8 8s.; an inlaid Sheraton design mahogany bedroom suite, £7 17s. 6d.; a similar suite, £10 15s.; 4 ft. 6 in. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, oval glass door to wardrobe, 12 guineas; 4 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with Beaconsfield wardrobe, £15 10s.; 5 ft. mahogany bedroom suite, with 2 oval doors to wardrobe, reflex mirrors to dressing-table, 19 guineas; 6 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, fitted drawers and trays, 24 guineas; 6 ft. Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full-size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 21s.; 9 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 3 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £3 15s.; full size all brass bedstead, 60s.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full-size all brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas; and several others up to 18 guineas. The DINING ROOM FURNITURE comprises fumed oak dining-room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, &c., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; most massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining-room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate-glass back, oxydised copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 16 guineas the set; a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining-room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite in green pegamoid, £3 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 30s.; Queen Anne design dining-room suite £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.; dining table £2 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining-room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 19s. 6d.; dining-table to match, 4 guineas Chippendale design set of chairs, ball and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards, large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining-room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 21s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards, under 8 guineas. The DRAWING-ROOM FURNITURE comprises very fine drawing-room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £6 10s.; satin-wood finish drawing-room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing-room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas: Chesterfield drawing-room suite with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £12 19s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 22 guineas; set of Dutch Marqueterie chairs, 14 guineas handsome design Vernis Marten cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas Buhl cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table *en suite*, 8 guineas Chesterfields from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 50 in stock, from 6s. 6d.; 2 white enamel overmantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 10 guineas; pair 9-light candelbra, 6 guineas, 5-light candelbra, 10 guineas; clock in ormolu case, £8 15s. piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto by Carl Strauss 20 guineas; and several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway, Bechstein, Blüthner, &c. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock from £2 15s. HALL FURNITURE: Hall stands from 20s.; hall cupboard, 3 guineas, large quantity of electro-plate, china, cutlery, kitchen utensils, curtains, bed and table linen, &c.

Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods Town or Country free of charge, or can remain stored 12 months free of charge. All goods can be seen where they are now lying for the convenience of sale, any day from 9 till 9, except Saturday, when we close at 7 o'clock, at

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.,

One door from Oxford Street, three minutes from Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Circus, and adjoining all principal tubes. Telephone, 1307 Central. £10,000 worth of second-hand furniture always on show. Catalogues now ready. Special attention given to Export Orders. Country buyers should send for catalogue.

BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA,

Blood-Spitting and Difficult Breathing.

CURED AFTER 30 YEARS.

MR. CHURCHILL.

MR. J. CHURCHILL, of Dowlish Wake, Ilminster, Somerset, a well-known Manufacturer and a Church-warden, writes:—"Nearly 30 years ago I contracted inflammation of the lungs, which left me with bronchial asthma of a very severe type, my cough being so bad that people said that it ever they heard a 'churchyard cough' I had it, and at times the paroxysms were so bad that I could not lie in bed. Everyone said I would never get over it, but at last I was induced to try Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and I soon found I was on the right track at last, and now, thanks to your extraordinary remedy, my asthma is entirely gone, and I am at work as hard as ever."

Awarded Grand Prix & Gold Medal—Paris Health Exhibition, 1910

Veno's Lightning Cough Cure is the Safest and Surest Remedy for

COUGHS & COLDS, BRONCHITIS, LUNG TROUBLES, INFLUENZA, HOARSENESS.

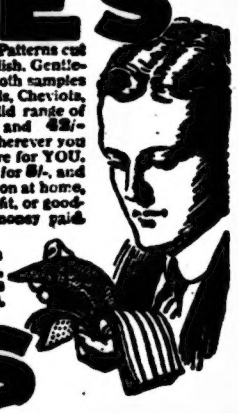
9½d. *a Bottle.*

ASTHMA, NASAL CATARRH, CHILDREN'S COUGHS, BLOOD SPITTING, DIFFICULT BREATHING.

Larger Sizes 1/1½ and 2/9, of all Chemists. A Special Offer for Catarrh Sufferers accompanies each bottle.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

GRAVES SUITS



Send Postcard for our Handsome Selection of Suiting Patterns cut from the cloth lengths which we are now making up into Stylish, Gentlemanly Autumn and Winter Suits. This fine exhibition of cloth samples includes the most attractive and durable designs in Tweeds, Cheviots, Worsted Serges, plain Black and Blue Vicunas, and a splendid range of hard-wearing Yorkshire Suitings at 35/- and 42/-

5/- with order.

Graves Tailoring is for men of all ages, and wherever you live, our challenging prices and easy terms are for YOU. All approved orders are delivered carriage paid for 5/-, and balance in six monthly payments. When tried on at home, if you are disappointed with the material, style, fit, or goodness of the work, we instantly return all money paid.

Send a Postcard for Patterns To-day.

With our fine display of cloth samples in your hands, you can judge for yourself the quality and durability of the materials, and you will be astonished to find how easily you may dress well on a surprisingly small outlay. 2½ in £ Cash Discount.

J. G. Graves Ltd. Sheffield.

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LIVERPOOL VICTORIA
INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL £421,403

Life. Fire. Accident. Motor. Burglary. Plate Glass.

'THE BUSINESS WOMAN'S' INVESTMENT POLICY.

No Medical Examination required. Prospectus sent on request.

AGENCY APPLICATIONS INVITED.

HEAD OFFICE:

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"THE LAY LAWYER."

Will be Published Shortly.

ONE PENNY.

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA

["*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, "*Double U. L.*" *of* LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.]

Don't forget that on Monday all the leading jockeys—flat and steeplechase—meet in their football match at Craven Cottage, Fulham. The kick-off is at 2.45, and I hope to see a big crowd there.

Who is the trainer who has found baccarat in a West End club much more costly and less invigorating than training horses?

I would not ask is it true, but say is it a fact? that not one-half of the tricks of the flat are practised in National Hunt racing.

It is a curious state of affairs, although a fact, that one man owns a horse which carries the colours of another, and is spoken of by yet a third as "mine."

Isn't there limitless more sport—that is, if one is fond of the game—in walking out on the course among the fences during the running, for steeplechases in particular? Yet very few do it, although just a little knot of people gathers round the fences which are nearest home, especially on big public holiday occasions. The one object of race-goers really seems to be to avoid exercise.

Prophetic.

Windsor's conclusion is only worth referring to to suggest that MAID MARION, if saddled, might gain the Borough Handicap, but Sandown at the week-end promises palpable winners such as

BOUTON ROUGE

in the Village Plate, BRIERY or MERIDIAN for the Sandown Grand Prize and particularly

THE GUN,

despite the presence of Scotney and the other cracks in the February Handicap. On Saturday, whatever beats the uncertain FLAXEN, who ought to be backed each way, will gain the Prince of Wales' Steeplechase.

FOOTBALL SELECTIONS.

By "McW."

Two days hence another interesting stage will be reached in the Cup Tie Competition. The Second Round will be decided and we shall get the grain separated from the chaff. Who is to decide which clubs will be the grain and which the residue? He is a bold man who prophesies dogmatically as to the result of Cup battles. I know only too well how fallacious is form in such contests. However, here are my fancies for the Cup games on Saturday, February 3rd.

PROBABLES.

Everton.	Fulham.
Wolverhampton W.	Bradford.
Middlesbro'.	Bolton W.
Aston Villa.	Bradford C.

POSSIBLES.

West Bromwich A.	Northampton.
Manchester U.	Swindon.
Manchester C.	Sunderland.

In the League games, Millwall, Queen's Park R., Stoke and Grimsby should be the good things.

For the benefit of those taking part in our £1,000 Competition I would state that my fancies for the high scoring games on Saturday, February 10th, are Middlesbrough *v.* Notts C., Birmingham *v.* Wolves, and Exeter *v.* Millwall.

FOOTBALL.

Send for Coupons. Every match in the 1st Scottish, 1st and 2nd English and Southern Leagues to choose from.

PATRICK FARLEY,

Turf and Football Accountant.

LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND: and 19, HOWARD ST., GLASGOW.

NO LIMIT TO DOUBLES OR TREBLES. LETTERS and COMMISSIONS. Pay at Night. Write for Terms.

'FOOTBALL.'

Do your Business with

W. & A. FOX,

Football Accountants.

BASLE, SWITZERLAND.

LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.—This firm has established itself as reliable, and their terms are both liberal and fair to both parties.

FREE! FREE!!

Silver-Plated Cigarette Lighters

GIVEN AWAY EVERY WEEK

Absolutely Free.

1d. Postcard will bring you Full Particulars.

Football!

WHITE, FISHER & CO. THE WORLD'S PREMIER Football Accountants.

BASLE, SWITZERLAND,

beg to announce that the

ENORMOUS ODDS OF 2,000 to 1

HAVE BEEN LAID AND PAID ON OCTOBER 7th.

£100 TO ONE SHILLING.

This fortunate client, Mr. Albert Hobden, 8, Guildford Street, Brighton, having predicted 4 scores successfully. £1,000 will be paid to any charity if not genuine. Full particulars will be sent upon receipt of a postcard. Mention this paper and we will send you a sample packet, FREE OF COST, of our famous FOOTBALL WHIFF CIGARETTES. Letters should not bear postmark later than 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Nothing Barred in Cup or Leagues. May invest on plain paper. Not less than four teams accepted.

Week-end Racing Supplement, Wednesday, December 20, *Re* White, Fisher & Co., the Football Commission Agents, of Basle: "This firm is of the straightest, and readers can most fearlessly deal with them. They do an enormous business, and they share with Cæsar's wife the reputation of being above suspicion."

The Editor of the Racing Judge, October 7th, says:—"A friend tells us that one of the sights of Basle, Switzerland, is the arrival of White, Fisher & Co.'s mail every Sunday."

FOOTBALL

THE SPORTSMAN, July 14th, 1911, says:—"BERT FRY, one of the best-known of the Flushing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Basle, Switzerland."

BERT FRY, BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.

"JOHN BULL" says: "Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as, instead of accepting fictitious odd offered them by strangers, they could entrust their business to reliable firm, like that of Bert Fry, and be sure of receiving their winnings."

Special Half-Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly.

Free Postage.

FOOTBALL.

SEND FOR COUPONS.

J. McLAUCHLAN,

Turf and Football Accountant.

Lucerne, Switzerland. Established 19 years.

Full Market Prices. CREDIT ACCOUNTS.

Business all the year round.

Write 16, PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH.

Free Postage. Free Postage.

FOOTBALL!

Were you welshed on Dec. 9th or Dec. 30th? If so make certain of not being welshed again and entrust your business to

H. HAMILTON & CO.,

The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World

What the Press says of us:—

Lotinga's Weekly for Dec. 30th, 1911, says:—"It is absolutely the punter's own fault if he is now welshed at Football betting when there are such firms as H. HAMILTON & CO. transacting business on Football."

Send a postcard (postage 1d.) for the most liberal price list issued.

£25 *FREE OFFER open to all Clients.*

H. HAMILTON & Co., Basle, Switzerland.

HARRY APPLETON the man who always pays.

"NO LIMIT" THROUGHOUT JUMPING SEASON. BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.

£100 FREE PRIZE OFFERED WEEKLY.

Send for my Postcards 1d. **FOOTBALL** terms greatly. Odds extended. Letters 2½d.

Kindly mention this paper.

IT WILL PAY YOU

TO PLACE YOUR COMMISSIONS WITH

Mr. C. H. STAPLETON, 9, 11 13 & 15 OXFORD ST., W.

YOU WILL OBTAIN THE BEST TERMS;
YOU WILL BE SURE OF RECEIVING YOUR CLAIMS

PROMPTLY.

NO CARRYING FORWARD OR PROCRASTINATION! Write to the SAFE MAN in confidence, stating amount of weekly credit required.

£1,000 FOR THREE RESULTS £1,000

No Entrance Fee. £52 10s. MUST BE WON EACH WEEK.

THE EASIEST AND BEST PAYING COMPETITION OF ITS KIND.

...of £10,000 to 1, and we are ... You pay a penny for your ... more than your penny-...ddition, for that penny we ...ou One Thousand Pounds, ...y Thousand Pennies, if by ...orrectly the results of Only

...to do is to state which ...gainst each other in ...glish League on Saturday, ...h two in Division II., and ...thern League will between ...number of goals, and give

...only correct one you will ...r skill. If your estimate ...st nearly accurate

You Must Win £52 10 0.

Last season the highest totals in the three Leagues were:—

SUNDERLAND .. 3 v. ASTON VILLA 2 .. Total 5.
BARNSLEY .. 7 v. BRADFORD 0 .. Total 7.
NORWICH .. .. 5 v. COVENTRY 2 .. Total 7.

Middlesbrough and Notts County also totalled 5 in Division I., but the Sunderland v. Villa is accepted as the highest under our amended conditions, because the Villa was higher on the League Table than Middlesbrough or Notts County.

Supposing that the games resulted exactly as last season, if your Coupon showed the results as given above you would be £1,000 in pocket unless some other competitor tied with you. Were your forecast, although not absolutely correct, the nearest to the correct results, you would win the Prize of Fifty Guineas.

If you are looking for guidance let us recommend to you the views of the great Football Writer and Expert, "McW.," who contributes "Football Favourites" in another column. Each week, too, you will find "Football Fancies" in "Lotinga's Weekly."

Do not run away with the idea that we do not wish you to win the Mammoth Prize:

The sooner the £1,000 is won the better pleased we shall be.

We realise its advertising value.

Remember, in conclusion, that you must select clubs actually competing against each other on Saturday, February 10th.

No. 6. COUPON for Matches to be Played SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th.

The two opposing clubs in Division I. of English League, the two in Division II, and the two in the Southern League, which between them, will total the largest number of goals, and the goals which each will score, will be as follows:—

ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. I).	Goals		Goals	ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. II.).	Goals		Goals	SOUTHERN LEAGUE.	Goals		Goals
Blkburn R.	....	v. **Liverpool** (2)	....	**Barnsley** (7)	....	v. **Bradford** (0)	....	**Southampton** (1)	....	v. **Brighton** (2)	....
Bradford C.	....	v. **Pres. N. E.** (0)	....	**Birmhm.** (1)	....	v. **Wol. W.** (3)	....	**Crystal P.** (—)	....	v. **Stoke** (—)	....
Bury	....	v. **Totthm H.** (1)	....	**Blackpool** (2)	....	v. **Stkpt. C.** (1)	....	**Norwich** (5)	....	v. **Coventry** (2)	....
Everton	....	v. **Sheffield U.** (0)	....	**Bristol C.** (—)	....	v. **Leictr F.** (—)	....	**Leyton** (3)	....	v. **Luton** (0)	....
Man. City	....	v. **Oldham A** (0)	....	**Chelsea** (—)	....	v. **Grimsby** (—)	....	**Plymouth** (0)	....	v. **Northpn.** (0	....
Middlesbro'	....	v. **Notts C.** (1)	....	**Clapton O.** (1)	....	v. **Gains. T.** (0)	....	**Reading** (—)	....	v. **Swindon** (—)	....
Sheffield W.	....	v. **Man. Utd.** (0)	....	**Glossop** (2)	....	v. **Derby C.** (2)	....	**Watford** (1)	....	v. **Bristol R.** (0)	....
Sunderland	....	v. **Aston V.** (2)	....	**Hudfd. T.** (3)	....	v. **Leeds C.** (2)	....	**N. Brompton** (1)	....	v. **W. Ham** (1)	....
W. Brom. A.	....	v. **New'tle U.** (—)	....	**Hull C.** (0)	....	v. **Fulham** (0)	....	**Exeter** (1)	....	v. **Millwall** (2)	....
Woolwich A.	....	v. **Bolton W.** (—)	....	**Notts. F.** (—)	....	v. **Burnley** (—)	....	**Brentford** (1)	....	v. **Q. P.R.** (1)	....

(The figures in brackets show the goals scored in corresponding games last season.)

I agree to be bound by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly," and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should more than one succeed in estimating all the particulars correctly, then £52 10s. will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED.

1. The decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" must be accepted as final and legally binding, and you enter on that clear understanding.
2. Your estimate must be written only on a JOHN BULL Coupon, or on the Coupon to be found in "Lotinga's Weekly"
3. £1,000 will be awarded to the competitor (or competitors) sending an absolutely correct estimate. If no competitor is absolutely correct in his coupon, £52 10s. will be given to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.
4. JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Week" will not accept any responsibility whatever in the matter of the non-delivery or delay of any attempt submitted.
5. All correspondence, whether personal or by letter, in the matter of the conduct of this competition will be ignored.
6. Readers in Scotland are precluded from taking part in our Football Competition owing to the attitude of their Law officers.
7. All competitors claiming prizes must send in their claims by the Thursday following the matches played.
8. All competitors must put the name and number of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope containing coupons or claims, and their names and addresses must be distinctly written on the back of the envelope.
9. Competitors sending in claims must forward copy of coupons to which their claims refer.
10. When two or more matches in the same League result in an equal number of goals, then the match including the team highest on the League table the previous Saturday will count.

Mark your envelopes "Football No. 6" and post your attempts so that they reach JOHN BULL, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than midday Thursday, February 8th next.

See page 166 for Result of Competition No. 3.

THE GREAT £250 "FOOTBALL FINAL" COMPETITION £250

On February 24th next sixteen clubs engage in the Third Round of the competition proper for the Football Cup. Of all the fixtures in the Football League only four can appear in the Semi-Finals, and only two can be at the Crystal Palace. Only one can win the Cup. Readers and students of football form are asked to test their skill by filling in the particulars on our "Skill" Coupon. £250 will be given to the competitor (or competitors) whose coupon is correct in every particular. If no competitor forecasts the exact results, £52 10 0 will be given to the sender of the most correct attempt. In the event of a tie, the money will be divided between the successful competitors. The conditions governing our other Football Competition hold good in this instance.

Mark your envelopes "Final," and send them so that they will be received at JOHN BULL Offices, 93 & 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than Thursday, Friday, February 23rd next.

It is only by a knowledge of football form that you can succeed in giving the particulars required. Therefore we advise you to give your attention to "Football Fancies" which appear each week in this paper. Your coupon MUST be taken from either LOTINGA'S WEEKLY or JOHN BULL.

Another series of large Money Prizes will be made after the decision is published.

COUPON.

3 THE FOOTBALL CUP COMPETITION. 3

The following four Clubs in my judgment will contest the Semi-Finals. The number of goals each will score in the actual deciding games are as given below:

Clubs	Goals	Clubs	Goals
.....		v.	
.....		v.	

The following two Clubs will contest the Final Tie this season and I judge the number of goals each will score in the actual deciding game to be

Club	Goals	Club	Goals
.....		v.	

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

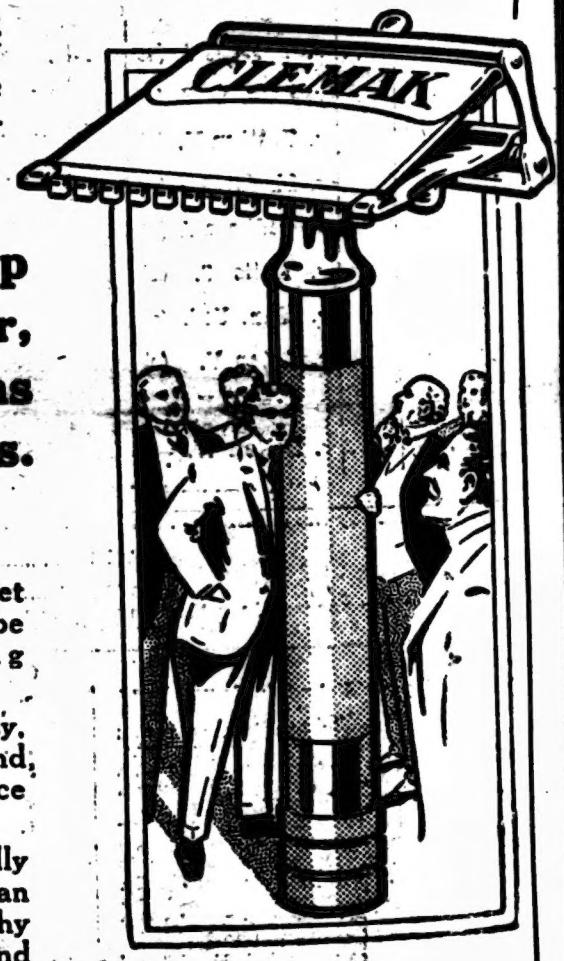
No Entrance Fee.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

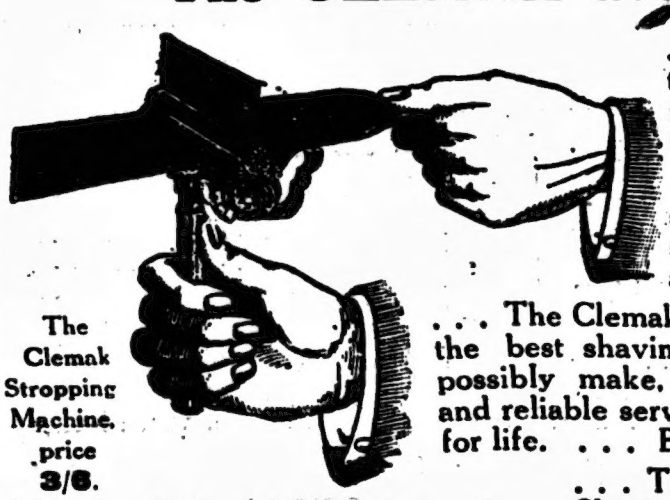
The Clemak Safety Razor—at 5s.—is Made as Well and Shaves as Well as any Guinea Safety Razor.

. . . Note how carefully it is made—the perfection of every detail—its beautiful finish. Look at the blade, feel its keen cutting edge. No other blade could shave your beard more easily than that.

. . . Now put the **CLEMAK** side by side with any other Safety Razor offered at a Guinea. You will then see for yourself that it is in every way the equal of the other Razor—and costs you 16/- less to buy. Then why pay a guinea ?



The only way to keep a razor sharp is to strop it. To buy a safety razor, and throw dull blades away, means a continuous expense for new blades. The CLEMAK avoids all this.



The Clemak Stropping Machine, price **3/6**. (including a fine horse-hide strop), compels you to strop at the **correct** angle and pressure. Ensures a **keen** blade for **every** shave.

. . . Why not let the New Year be free from shaving troubles ?

. . The barber is busy, so buy a Clemak and save yourself annoyance and waste of time.

. . . The Clemak Razor is undoubtedly the best shaving investment you can possibly make, and by its trustworthy and reliable service will prove a friend for life. . . . Buy one to-day.

. . . The Clemak Safety Razor and the Clemak Stropper is a perfect Shaving Combination. They cost together 8s. 6d., and last a lifetime. Why pay a guinea ?

COMBINATION CASE, 12 Blades, Stropping Machine, and Strop. 10/6

OF ALL STORES, CUTLERS, &c., Or post free from the CLEMAK RAZOR CO., Minster St. London.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

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